BEWARE!
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THE MONSTERS ARE COMING!
BEWARE!
VENI
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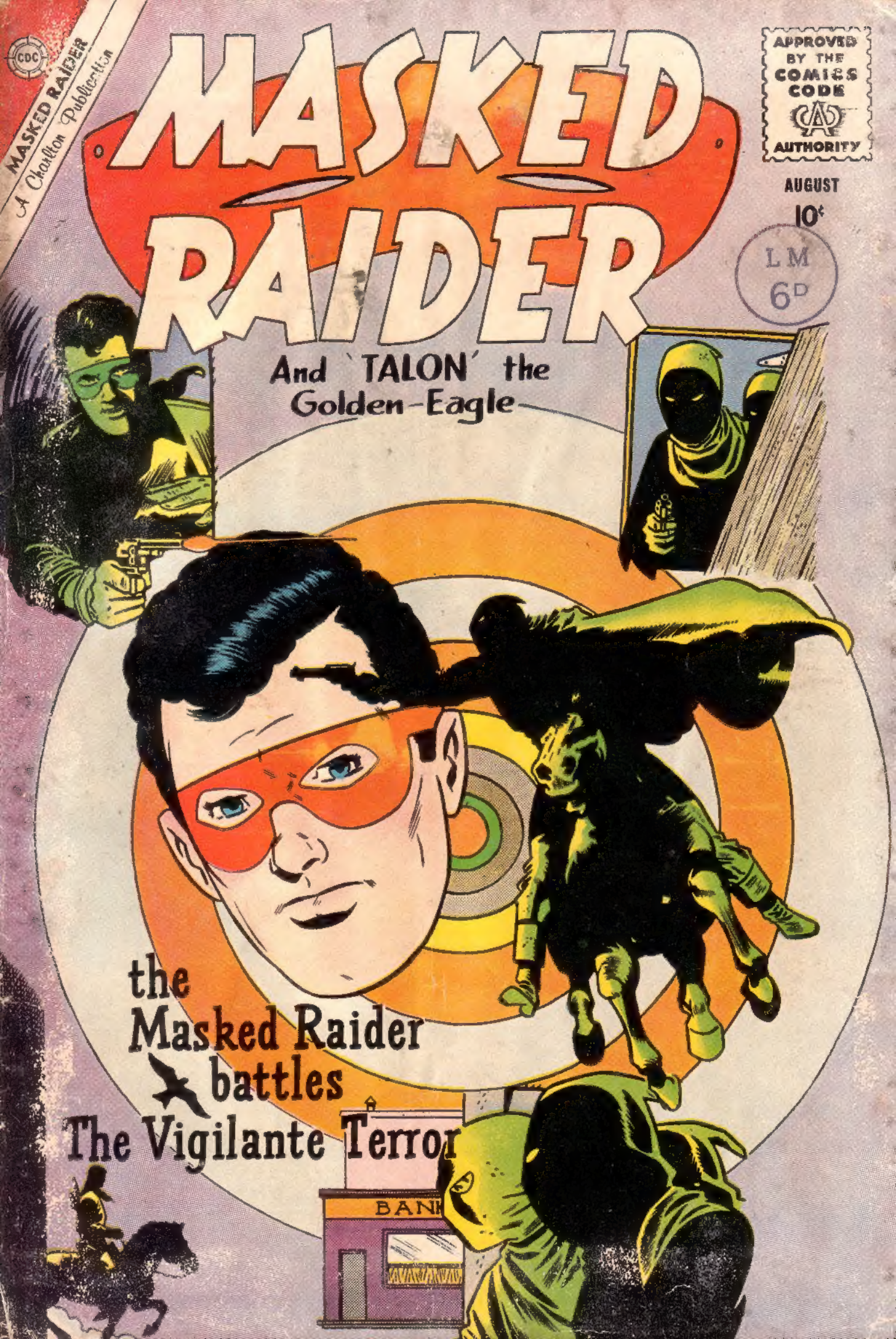
SCANI
the incredible
BUMBLEBEE-MAN !


MASKED RAIDER
A Charlton Publication
MASKED RAIDER
And 'TALON' the Golden-Eagle
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
AUGUST
10¢
LM
6D
the Masked Raider battles The Vigilante Terror
BANK

"I don't care what your age is! Whether you're a teenager, in your 20's, 30's, 40's, or 50's.
Just RUSH me your LAST CHANCE COUPON below checking the KIND of HE-MAN BODY YOU DESIRE FAST and I'LL SEND YOU absolutely FREE 6 AMAZING PICTURE-PACKED COURSES LISTED BELOW that show you no matter what your age or condition

Formerly $5.00 each. MILLIONS were sold at $1.00.

How to GAIN UP TO 50 LBS. OF MIGHTY MUSCLES! or How to Change FAT into MUSCLES FAST!

THE WORLD'S GREATEST MOLDER OF HANDSOME HE-MEN and CHAMPS out of WEAKLINGS says

"SKINNY OR FAT, I'LL BUILD YOU INTO A NEW ATHLETIC STREAMLINED MIGHTY-MUSCLED HE-MAN

as I have for 35 years re-built MILLIONS like you!"

Sincerely yours for Physical Perfection . . .

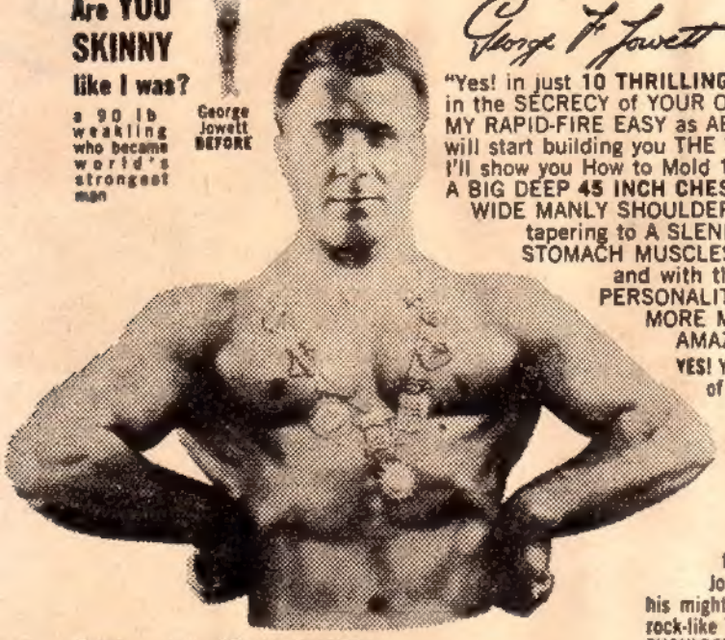
George F. Jowett

Famous Physical Directors like J. F. Kelly and Larry Campbell said "George F. Jowett is by far THE WORLD'S GREATEST MOLDER of HANDSOME HE-MEN and CHAMPS out of weaklings."

Are YOU SKINNY like I was?

George Jowett BEFORE

a 90 lb weakling who became world's strongest man



THIS is AN ACTUAL PHOTO of YOUR TRAINER, George F. Jowett, taken after a record-breaking event, wearing some of his WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALS and MEDALS honoring him as "WORLD'S BEST BODY BUILDER." 4 TIMES WINNER of WORLD'S STRONGEST and MOST PERFECTLY DEVELOPED MAN

"Yes! in just **10 THRILLING MINUTES** a day in the SECRECY of YOUR OWN ROOM at home MY RAPID-FIRE EASY as ABC FAMOUS PICTURE METHODS will start building you THE VERY FIRST NIGHT I'll show you How to Mold **16 INCH ARMS of MIGHT, A BIG DEEP 45 INCH CHEST housing TIRELESS LUNGS,** WIDE MANLY SHOULDERS – A BROAD BRAWNY BACK tapering to A SLENDER WAIST with punch-proof STOMACH MUSCLES. LEGS of RUNNING POWER! and with these you get a POWERFUL PERSONALITY that WINS YOU NEW FRIENDS, MORE MONEY, NEW SUCCESS, AMAZING NEW PLEASURES.

YES! Your Success Story can soon be like that of John Sill and thousands of my pupils. Think of it — a skinny weakling became a MAGNIFICENT MR. MUSCLES — won a BIG SILVER TROPHY, his name, accomplishments engraved on it, and $100 All of which you can win! A few weeks before, everybody picked on John, too weak to fight for his rights TODAY everybody admires John's movie star build, he-man STRENGTH, his mighty ARMS, heroic CHEST, slender WAIST, rock-like TORSO, broad manly BACK, wide military SHOULDERS, new popularity His winning drive in ALL SPORTS, his energy at work and studies

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are now, if you're in your teens, twenties, or thirties, I'll show you in just 10 thrilling minutes in your home, how you can make yourself over by the easy, quick method I turned myself from wreck to WORLD CHAMPION.

STOP once for all BEING A WISH-WASHY SKINNY WEAKLING like this 120 lb. pupil was!

I GAINED 60 LBS. of MIGHTY MUSCLES! I added 3½ INCHES to each ARM, I added 4 inches to my CHEST and to the rest of my body in BALANCED PROPORTION. I won $100

John Sill BEFORE

YOU can do and win everything John Sill did

I won this 15 INCH TALL SILVER TROPHY

I won a GOLD MEDAL John Sill

YES! YOU'LL ADD INCHES of MIGHTY MUSCLES to YOUR ARMS, DEEPEN YOUR CHEST BROADEN YOUR BACK and SHOULDERS From HEAD to HEELS you'll gain SIZE, POWER, LIGHTNING SPEED ENDURANCE You'll become a SUCCESSFUL HE-MAN in LOOKS and ACTS — a WINNER in EVERYTHING athletics, business studies

"Rush me YOUR LAST CHANCE COUPON below CHECK the BODY you want and I'll show You absolutely **FREE** if you're SKINNY

HOW TO GAIN up to 50 LBS. of MIGHTY MUSCLES

If you're FAT have ROLLS of UGLY GREASE all over you, I'll CHANGE YOUR FLAB into HANDSOME MUSCLE fast

"FATSO" they called me.

"I LOST 17 LBS. of grease, and became a MR. AMERICA, A WINNER in ALL SPORTS, Popular, Self-confident." Ernest Raines (signed also by his father and mother)

"Mary, you know how they used to call me 'MR SKINNY' — now they call me 'MR MUSCLES'"

"I'm proud of you now, Tony" Tony Pascarella

"You wouldn't give me a tumble before I gained 28 JOWETT lbs.

"I am just 41 years of age I lost pounds of fat fast I recommend your wonderful courses to all regardless of age Soon they'll be as proud as I am of my new body" Paul Lange.

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Which of These Amazing Picture-Packed Courses do YOU want absolutely FREE? Check coupon below!

1. HOW to Build POWERFUL 16 INCH ARMS like this arm of my pupil Larry Campbell

2. HOW to Build for YOU A BIG 45 inch CHEST housing TIRELESS LUNGS like chest of this pupil Jim Norman World Champ, once skinny!

3. HOW to Build WIDE SHOULDERS A BROAD BRAWNY BACK like pupil Ernest Raines

4. HOW to Build LEGS of LEAPING POWER that'll make YOU A WINNER in SPORTS as it did this pupil

5. HOW to TRIPLE YOUR STRENGTH Here's my once skinny pupil LARRY CAMPBELL lifting a 200 lb anvil with his teeth

6. BOOKS of PHOTOS of FAMOUS STRONG MEN who came to me weaker than you I and they show you how YOU can BECOME ONE of THEM FAST

MAIL COUPON BELOW RIGHT NOW and get ALL 6 GREAT COURSES FREE for quick ACTION. FORMERLY $5 — MILLIONS sold for $1. They'll Build You STRONG while they Build you HANDSOME.

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Dear George: Mail me FREE all 6 HE-MAN Building Picture Courses. Enclosed find 10c for postage & handling

I'm checking everything I need to give me the kind of body I want:

☐ I want to gain _____ lbs. (fill-in)

☐ I want to streamline my body, get rid of flabby fat.

☐ I want to add inches of muscle to my ☐ ARMS ☐ CHEST ☐ LEGS ☐ SHOULDERS.

☐ I want to become a winning athlete. ☐ I want new pep, new energy

NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

MASKED RAIDER VOLUME 2, NUMBER 25 AUGUST, 1960

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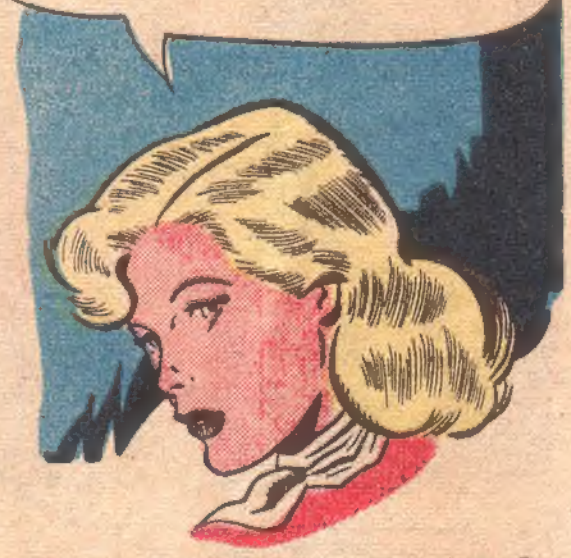
MASKED RAIDER

A DATE WITH DESTINY

POLLY GARRETT WAS OVERJOYED AS SHE PREPARED TO RIDE OUT OF TOWN...

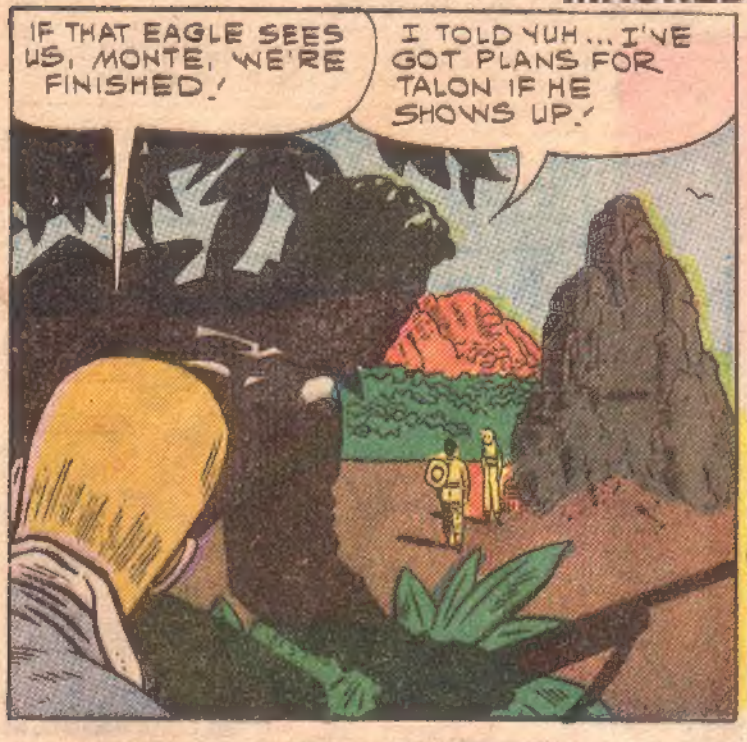
DON'T YOU *DARE* TRAIL ME, DADDY! YOU LET THE MASKED RAIDER ALONE WHEN HE HAS A DATE TO MEET ME!

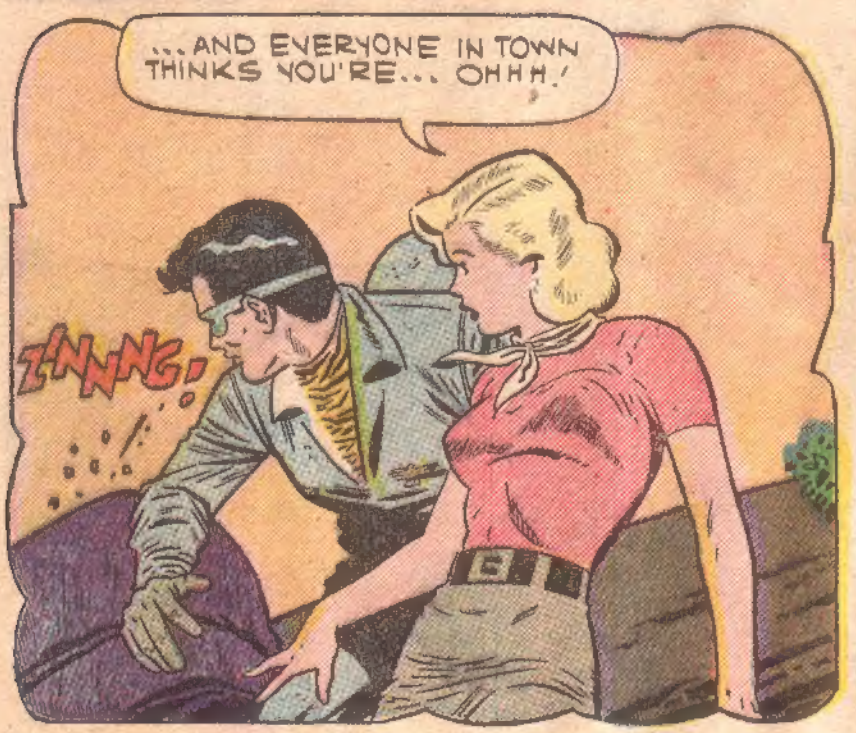
THE MASKED RAIDER DIDN'T WANT TO MEET ME ON THE RIDGE! BUT I TRICKED HIM INTO PROMISING! WHAT CAN GO WRONG? THERE'S NO DANGER FOR EITHER OF US!

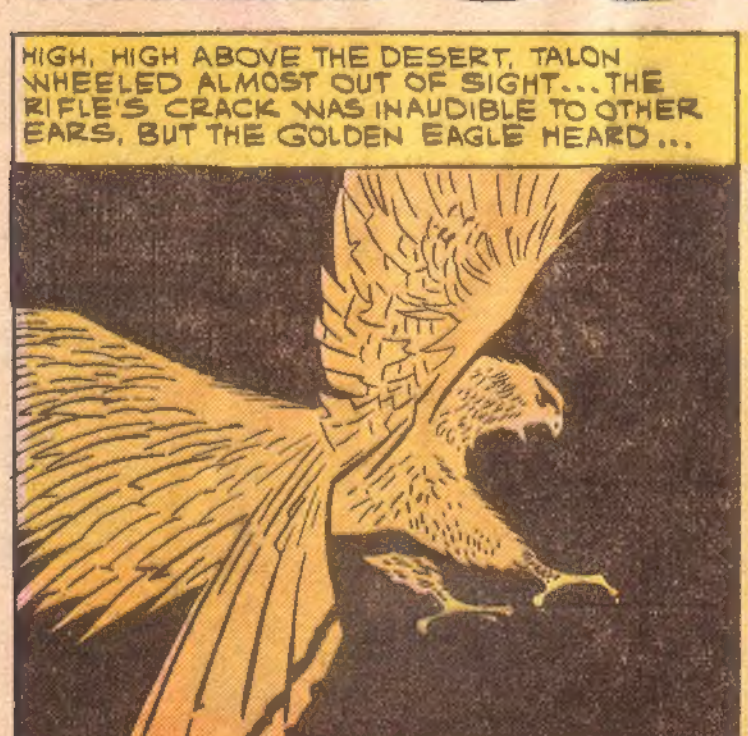


THE MASKED RAIDER WAS WAITING WITH WHITE STAR AT HIS SIDE AND TALON HOVERING OVERHEAD! LES WILCOX, THE LAWYER WHO POLLY DISDAINED IN TOWN, WAS ENJOYING THE MEETING... BUT HE WOULDN'T IF HE KNEW ABOUT THE OWLHOOTERS HIDING IN THE ROCKS...

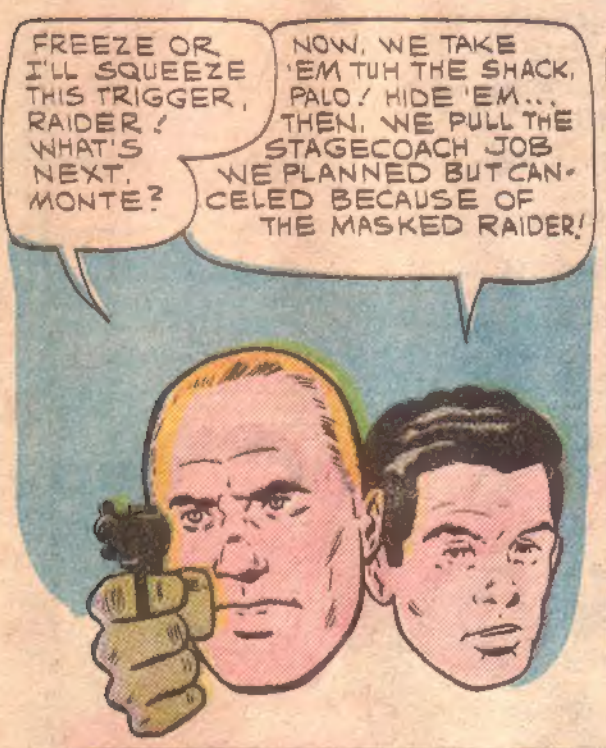
MASKED RAIDER

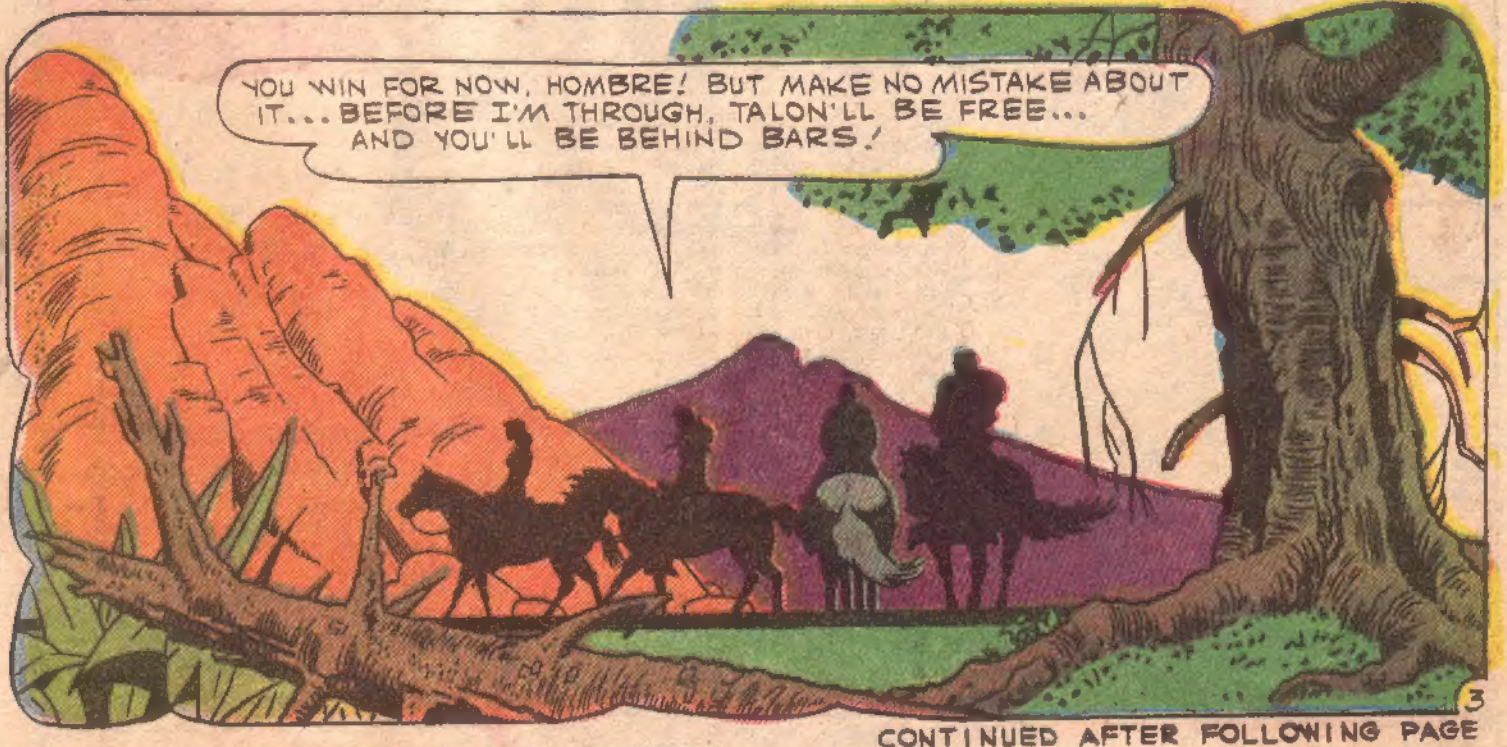





HIGH, HIGH ABOVE THE DESERT, TALON WHEELED ALMOST OUT OF SIGHT... THE RIFLE'S CRACK WAS INAUDIBLE TO OTHER EARS, BUT THE GOLDEN EAGLE HEARD...

THE EAGLE SAW THE GUNS...SMELLED THE GUNSMOKE...AND DOVE, HIS HOOKED JAWS AGAPE, HIS RAZOR TALONS OUT-THRUST! BUT THEN...
GOT 'IM! I GOT THE GOLDEN EAGLE!


FREEZE OR I'LL SQUEEZE THIS TRIGGER, RAIDER! WHAT'S NEXT, MONTE?
NOW, WE TAKE 'EM TUH THE SHACK, PALO! HIDE 'EM... THEN, WE PULL THE STAGECOACH JOB WE PLANNED BUT CANCELED BECAUSE OF THE MASKED RAIDER!



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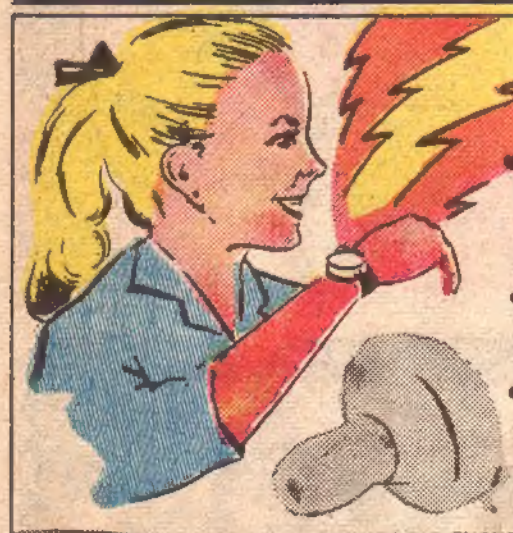

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- WEAR It Like A Watch—Listen In Like A Radio
- Plays for Years Without Electricity or Batteries

Money Back Guarantee

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☐ I enclose $2.98 plus 36¢ shipping charge.

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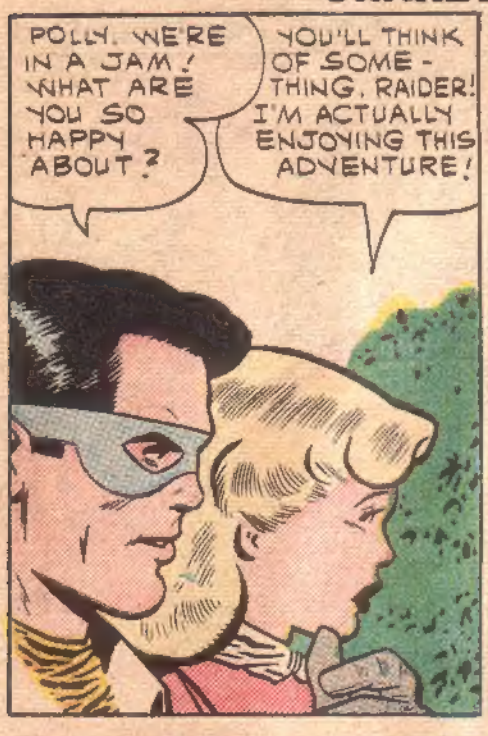
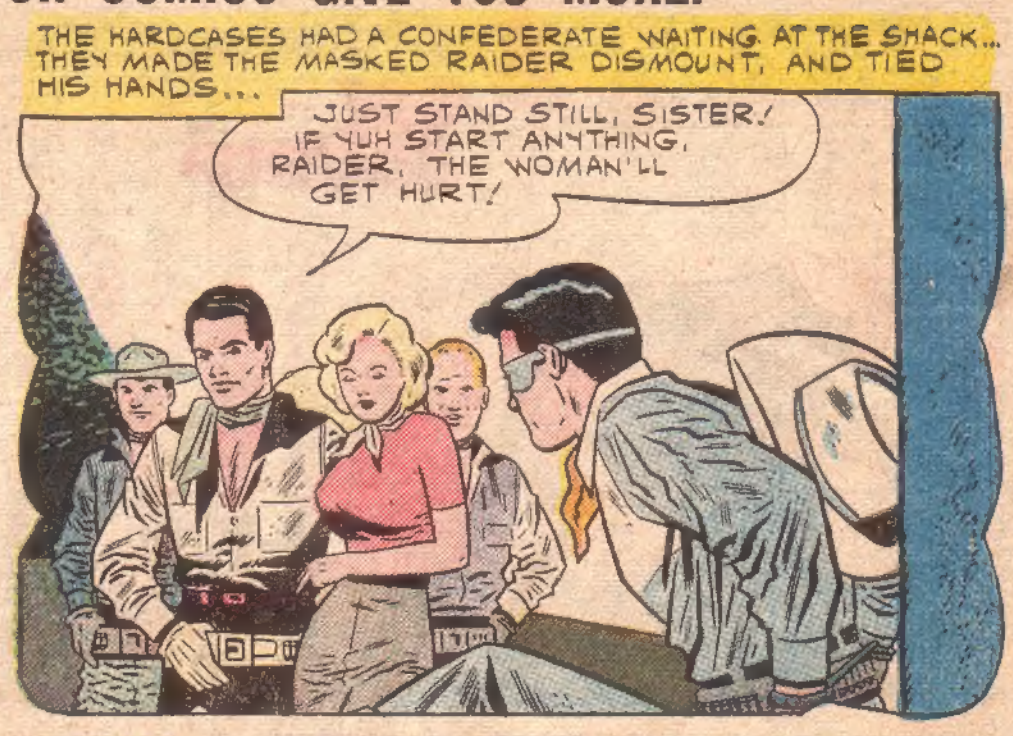
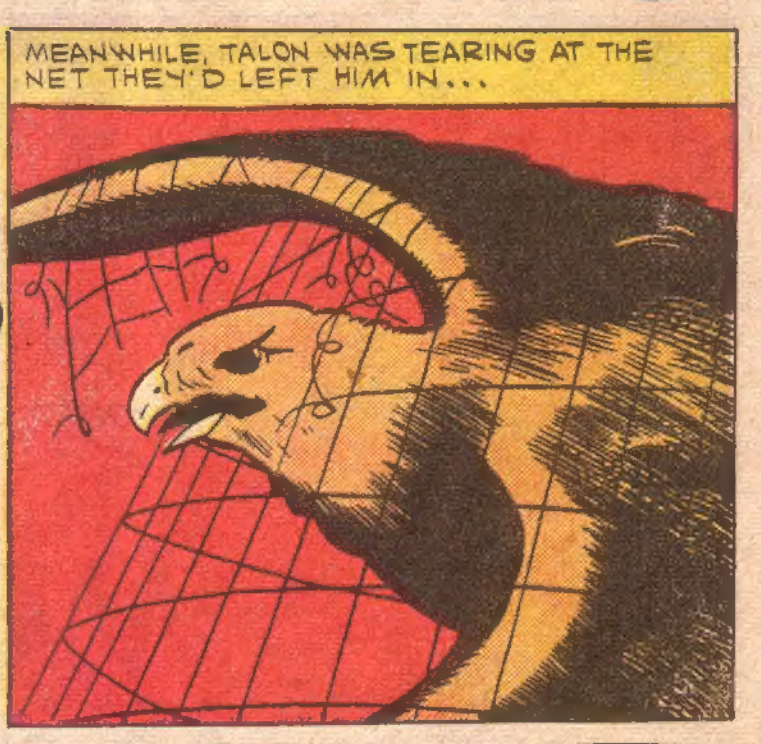
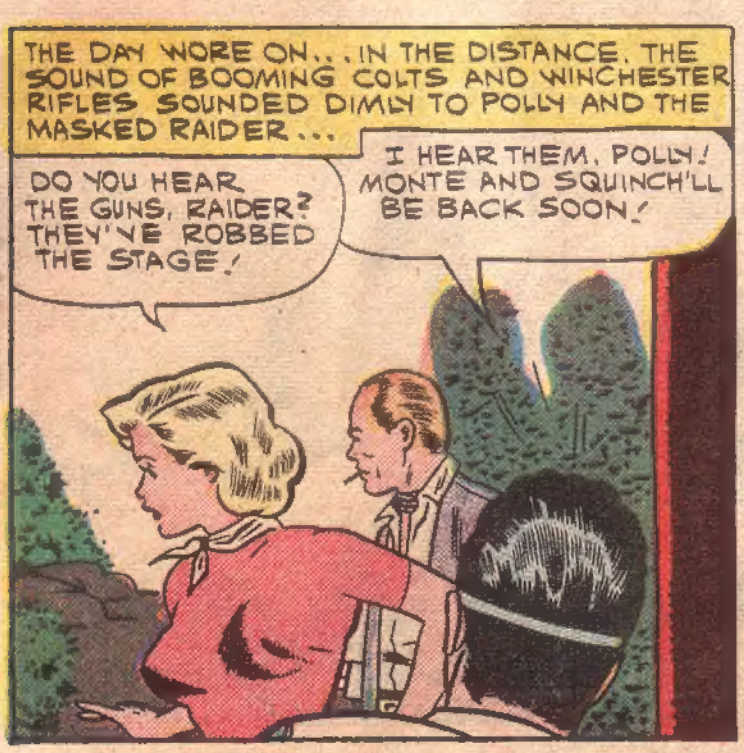
Address_____

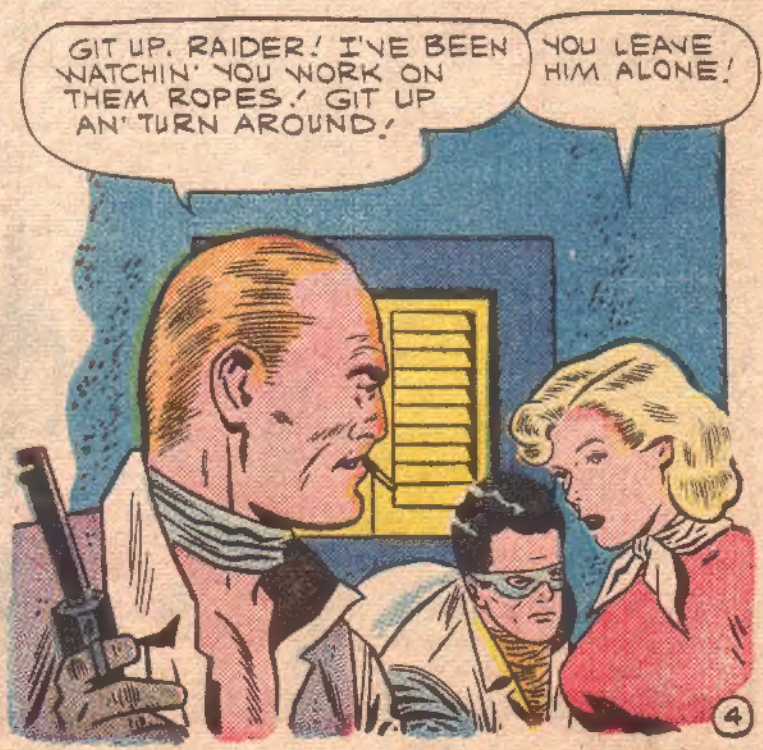

POLLY, WE'RE IN A JAM! WHAT ARE YOU SO HAPPY ABOUT?
YOU'LL THINK OF SOME-THING, RAIDER! I'M ACTUALLY ENJOYING THIS ADVENTURE!


THE HARDCASES HAD A CONFEDERATE WAITING AT THE SHACK... THEY MADE THE MASKED RAIDER DISMOUNT, AND TIED HIS HANDS...
JUST STAND STILL, SISTER! IF YUH START ANYTHING, RAIDER, THE WOMAN'LL GET HURT!

ME AN' SQUINCH'LL NAIL THE STAGE, PALO! WATCH 'EM GOOD... IF THE RAIDER GETS FRISKY, USE A BULLET TUH QUIET HIM DOWN!


MEANWHILE, TALON WAS TEARING AT THE NET THEY'D LEFT HIM IN...


THE DAY WORE ON... IN THE DISTANCE, THE SOUND OF BOOMING COLTS AND WINCHESTER RIFLES SOUNDED DIMLY TO POLLY AND THE MASKED RAIDER...
DO YOU HEAR THE GUNS, RAIDER? THEY'VE ROBBED THE STAGE!
I HEAR THEM, POLLY! MONTE AND SQUINCH'LL BE BACK SOON!


GIT UP, RAIDER! I'VE BEEN WATCHIN' YOU WORK ON THEM ROPES! GIT UP AN' TURN AROUND!
YOU LEAVE HIM ALONE!

MASKED RAIDER

THE MASKED RAIDER DID HAVE HIS HANDS FREE... AS HE CLIMBED TO HIS FEET HE WONDERED IF PALO WOULD SHOOT...

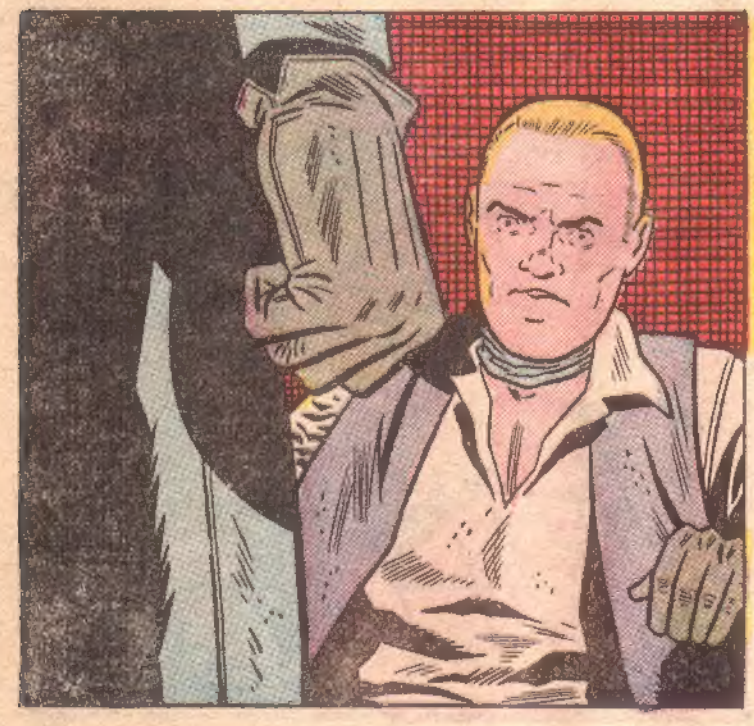
I DO HAVE THE ROPES OFF, PALO! WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO?

JUST WHAT I SAID! I'M GONNA QUIET YUH FOR GOOD!

THE SHERIFF'S DAUGHTER MOVED FIRST... AMAZINGLY FAST FOR A GIRL...

RUN FOR IT!

HEY!



COME ON... LET'S RIDE HARD AND FAST!

WE'LL TELL MY FATHER! HE'LL ORGANIZE A POSSE!

NO! I'LL HANDLE THEM MYSELF! THERE ISN'T TIME! MONTE DEUCE AND SQUINCH WOULD BE IN MEXICO BY THE TIME YOUR DAD GOT ORGANIZED!

DEUCE AND SQUINCH HAD BEEN A MILE FROM FROM THE SHACK WHEN PALO'S GUN WENT OFF... THEY LOOKED AT EACH OTHER ... IT MEANT TROUBLE...

THAT WAS A SHOT! PALO'S IN TROUBLE! WHERE'RE YUH GOIN', MONTE?

MEXICO! IF THAT MASKED MAN IS FREE WITH A GUN, I DON'T WANNA SEE HIM! COME ON!

THEY'RE RIDIN' FAST FOR THE RIO GRANDE! AN' THEY'LL MAKE IT ACROSS AT THAT RATE!

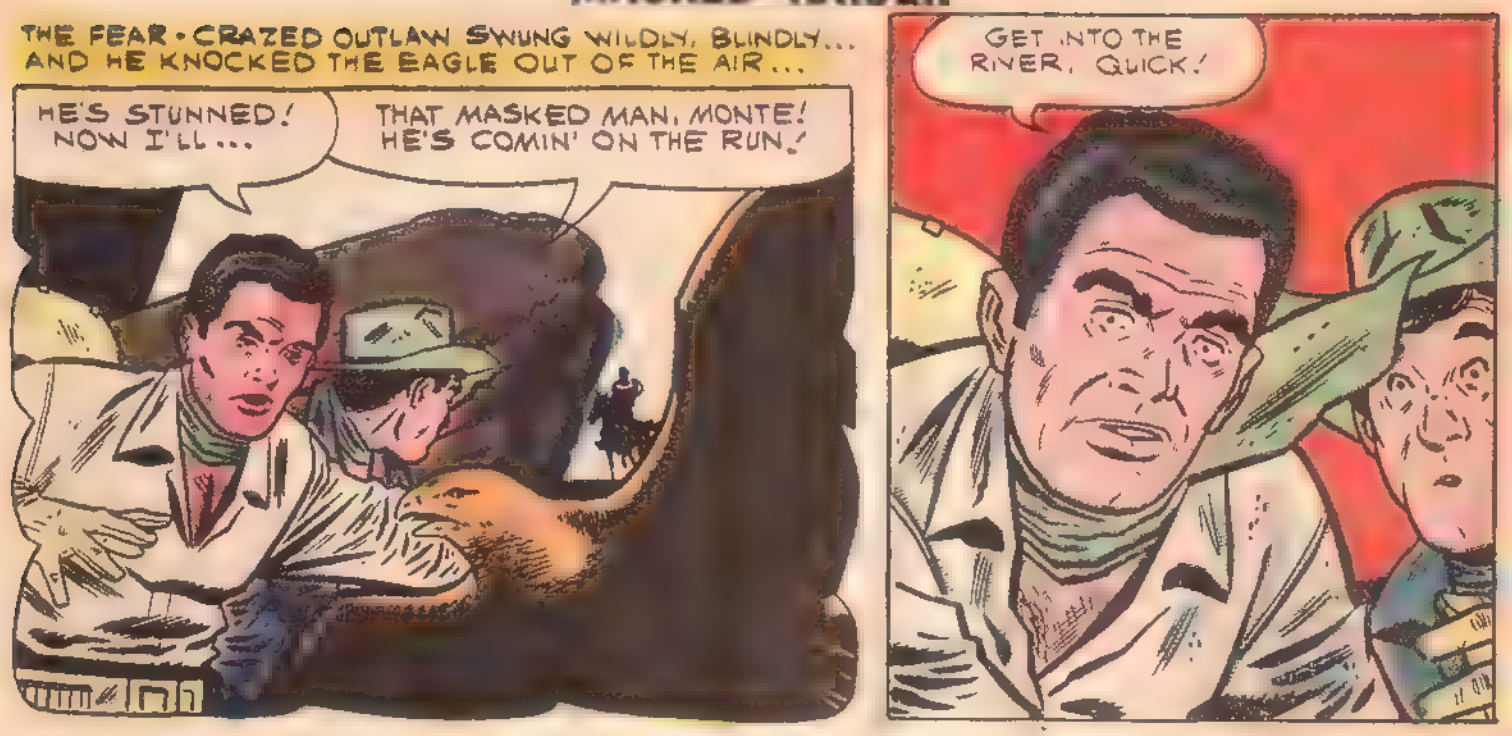
MONTE DEUCE AND SQUINCH HELD ALL THE ACES, THEY FIGURED... EXCEPT ONE... THE MASKED RAIDER HAD THE HIGH CARD... CIRCLING FAR ABOVE THEM ALL, HIS AMAZING EYES FOLLOWING THE ENEMY BELOW, WAS TALON... FREE TO FLY... FREE TO FIGHT...

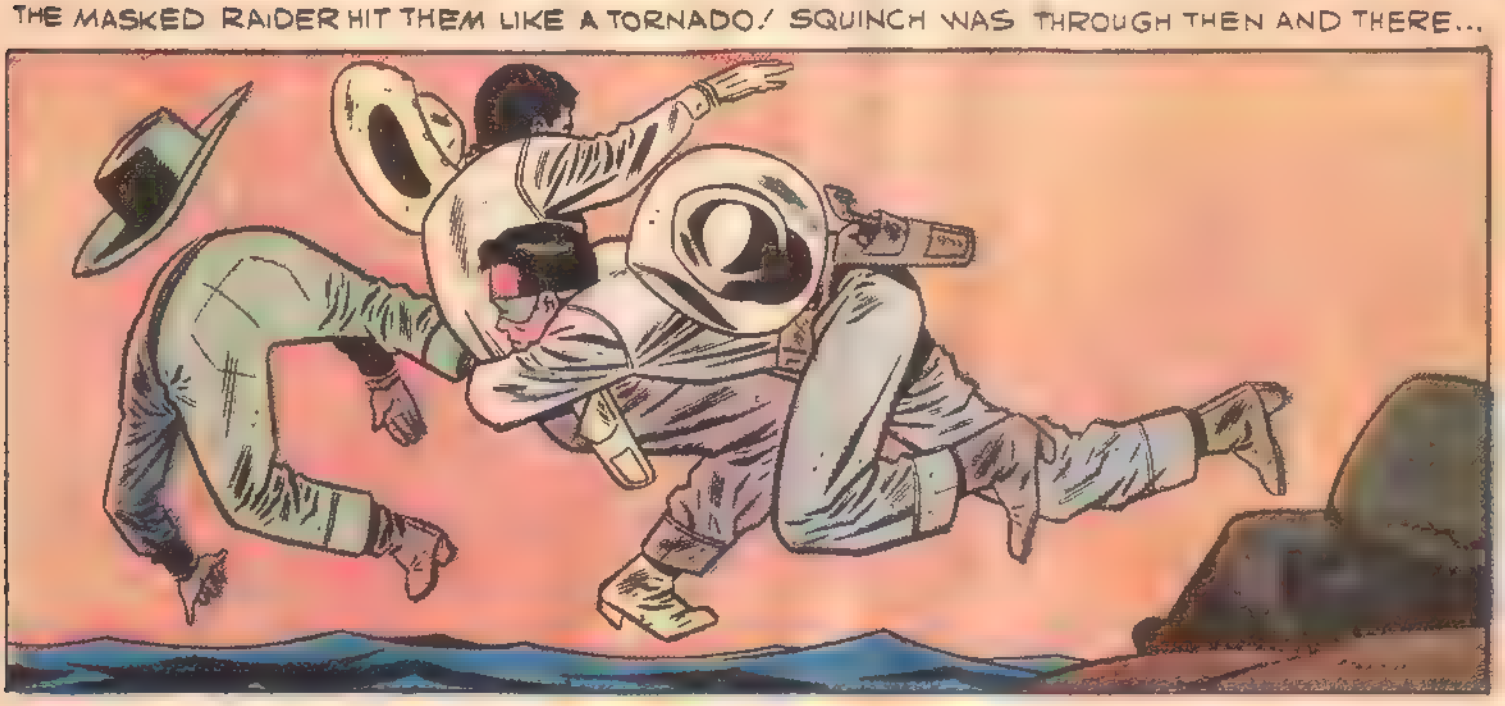
THE RIO'S A HUNDRED YARDS AWAY! WE'RE SAFE NOW!

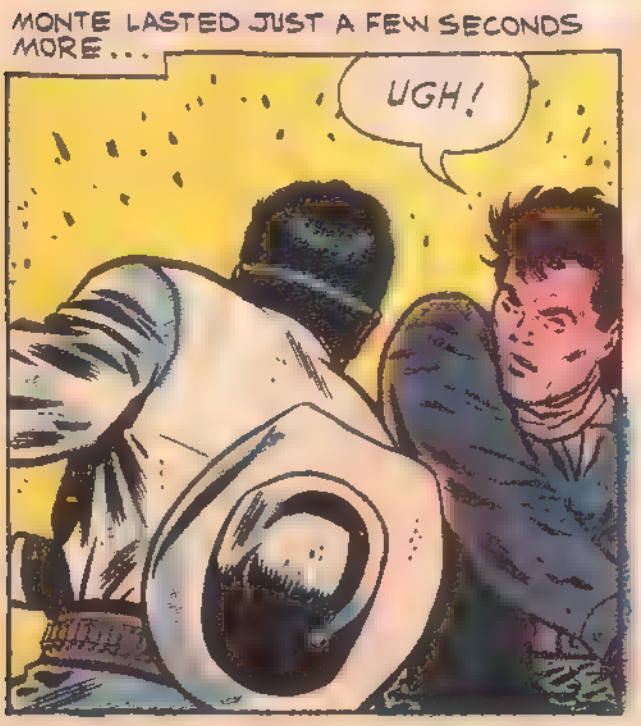
LOOK OUT, MONTE!

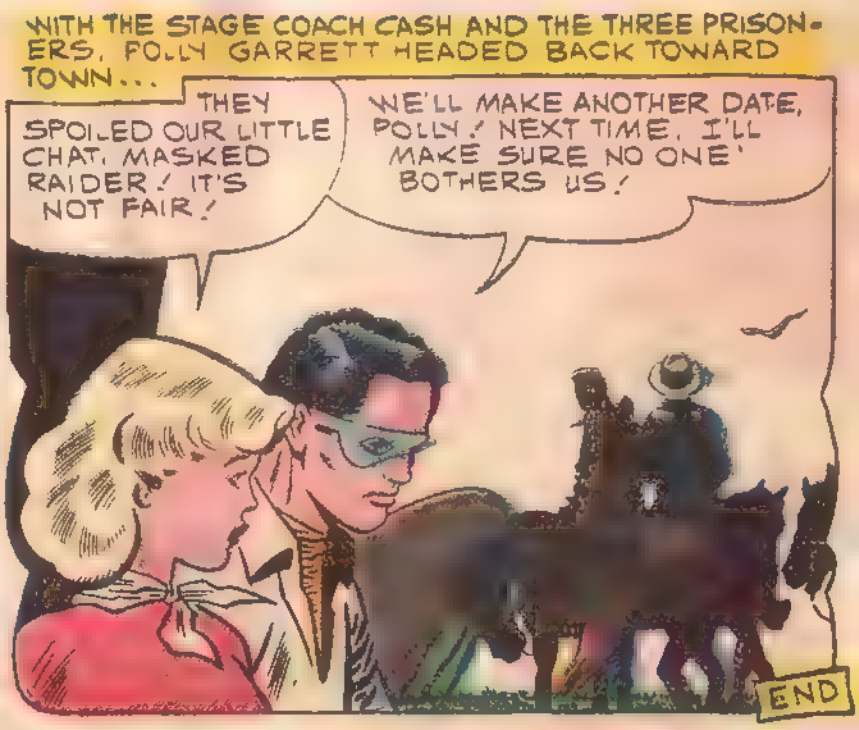
GIT AWAY! STAY BACK! STAY BACK! HEY!

MASKED RAIDER


THE FEAR-CRAZED OUTLAW SWUNG WILDLY, BLINDLY... AND HE KNOCKED THE EAGLE OUT OF THE AIR...
HE'S STUNNED! NOW I'LL...
THAT MASKED MAN, MONTE! HE'S COMIN' ON THE RUN!
GET INTO THE RIVER, QUICK!






WITH THE STAGE COACH CASH AND THE THREE PRISONERS, POLLY GARRETT HEADED BACK TOWARD TOWN...
THEY SPOILED OUR LITTLE CHAT, MASKED RAIDER! IT'S NOT FAIR!
WE'LL MAKE ANOTHER DATE, POLLY! NEXT TIME, I'LL MAKE SURE NO ONE BOTHERS US!
END

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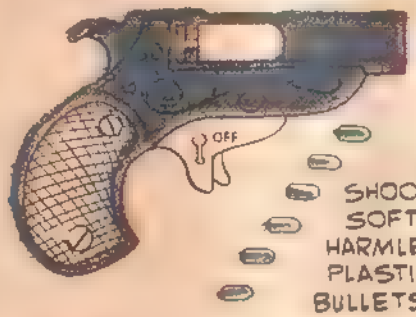
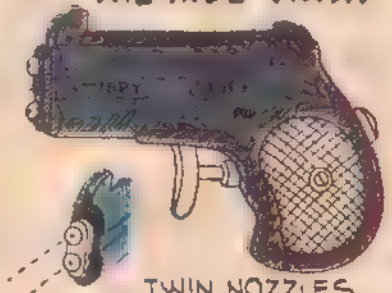
1 COUPON AND 35 ¢
(ADD 5¢ EXTRA FOR CANADA)



SHOOTS SOFT HARMLESS PLASTIC BULLETS!

#202 "THE HIDE-AWAY"

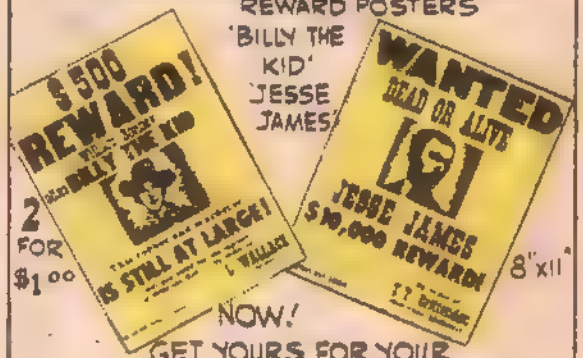


TWIN NOZZLES FIRE DOUBLE ACTION JETS OF WATER!

1 COUPON AND 50 ¢
(ADD 5¢ EXTRA FOR CANADA)

#203 "OUTLAWS OF THE WEST" REWARD POSTERS

'BILLY THE KID' 'JESSE JAMES'



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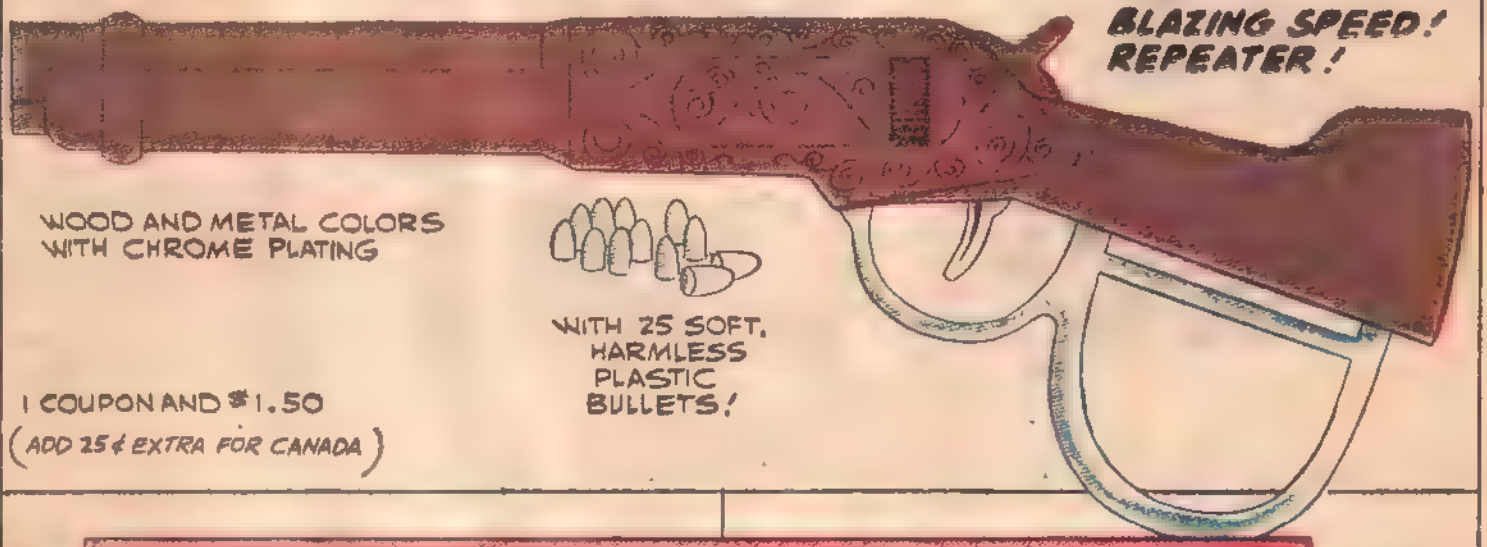
BIG! BLAZING SPEED! REPEATER!



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WITH 25 SOFT, HARMLESS PLASTIC BULLETS!

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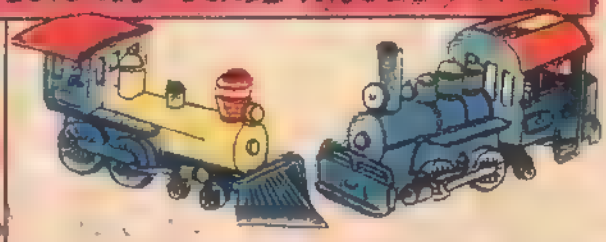
2 IN 1 KIT

1 COUPON AND 50¢ (ADD 5¢ EXTRA FOR CANADA)



2 FAMOUS LOCOMOTIVES OF THE OLD WEST

1 COUPON AND 50¢ (ADD 5¢ EXTRA FOR CANADA)

THIS OFFER IS NULL AND VOID IN ANY STATE OR OTHER JURISDICTION WHERE, BY LAW OR REGULATION, NOW OR HEREAFTER IN EFFECT, THE REDEMPTION OR ISSUANCE THEREOF IS EITHER PROHIBITED, TAXED, LICENSED OR IN ANY OTHER WAY RESTRICTED. THIS PREMIUM OFFER MAY BE MODIFIED WITHOUT NOTICE AND ARTICLES SUBSTITUTED WHENEVER WE DEEM NECESSARY.

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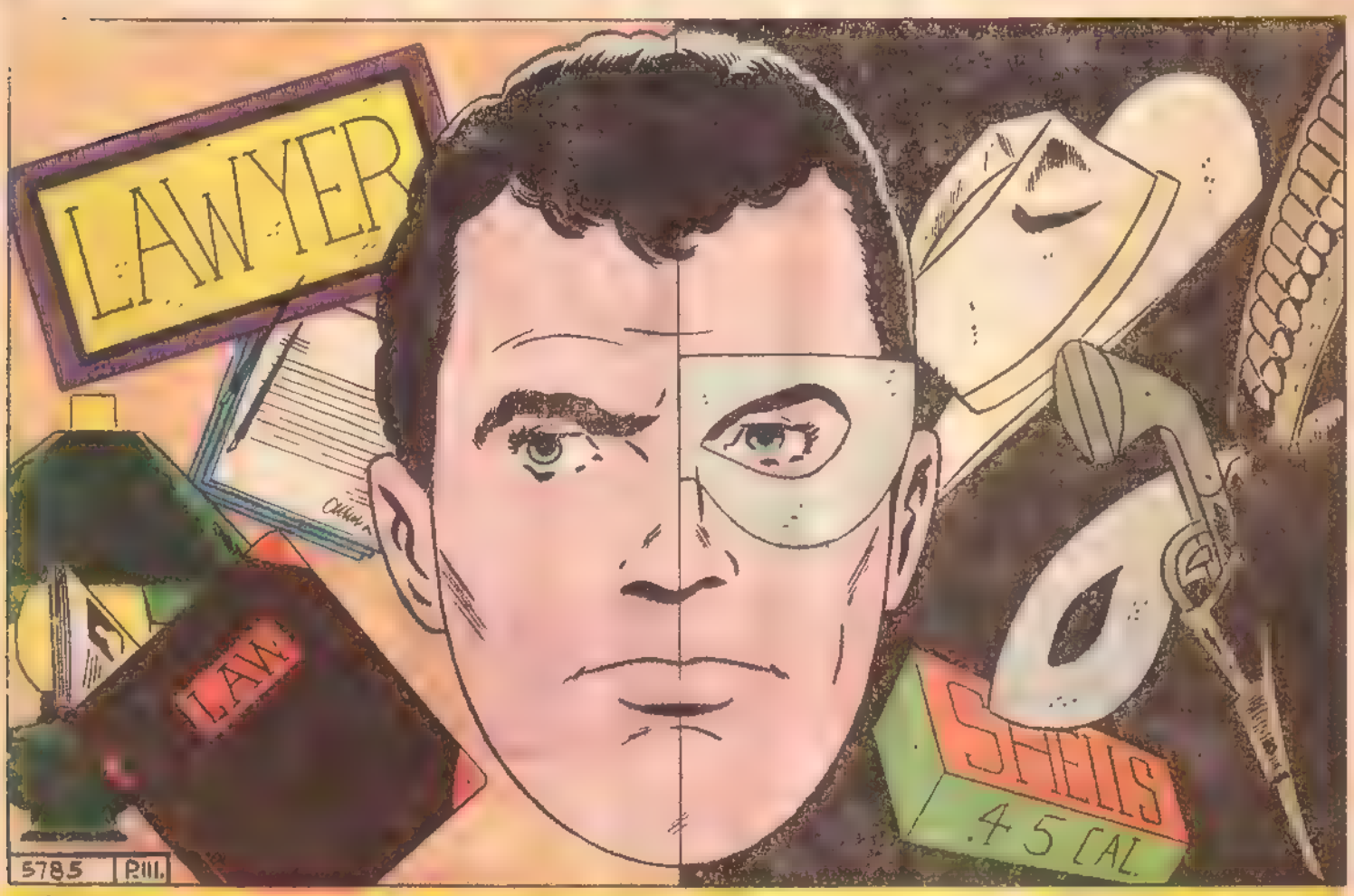
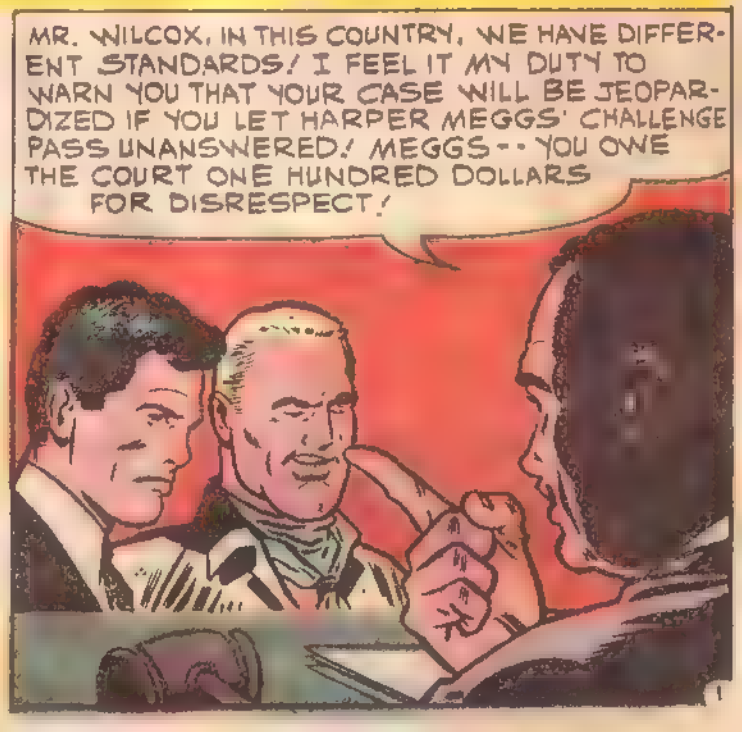
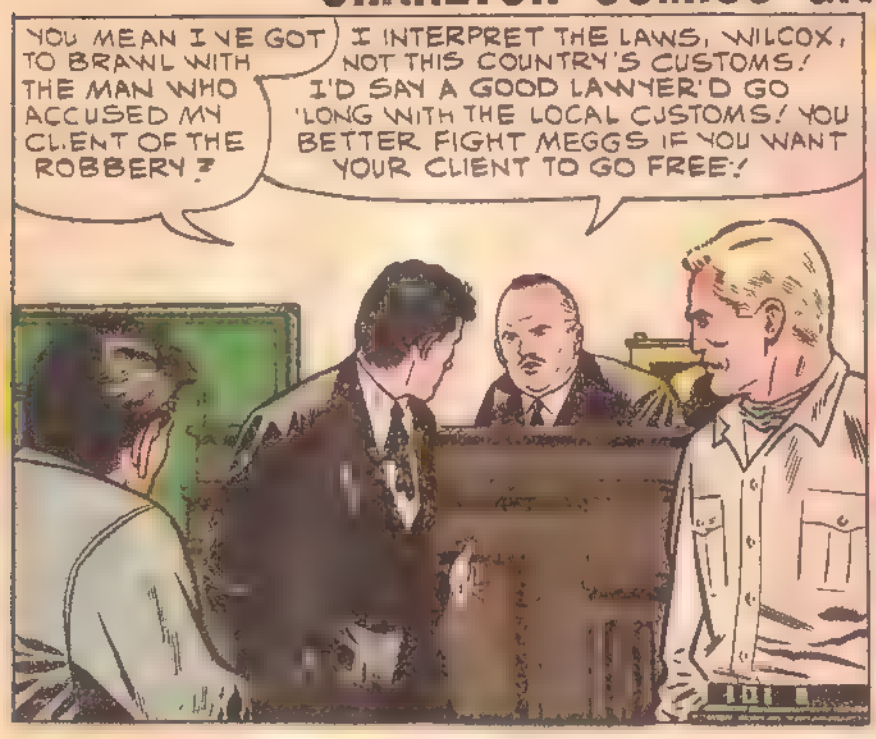
MASKED RAIDER in THE UNKNOWN FRIEND



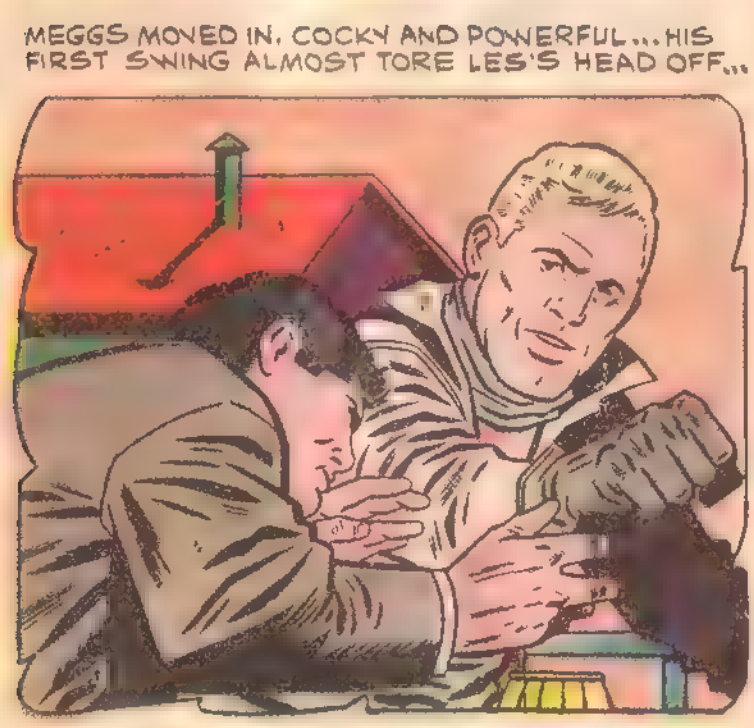
When cowtown lawyer Les Wilcox heard about young Ben Duran being in jail for the Mannix hold-up, he took the next stage to Mannix -- because Ben Duran had been with Les himself at the time of the crime! It took Les a hundred miles away from his great eagle, Talon, and his sleek stallion White Star... But there was no way he could bring them and be in Mannix in time for the trial...

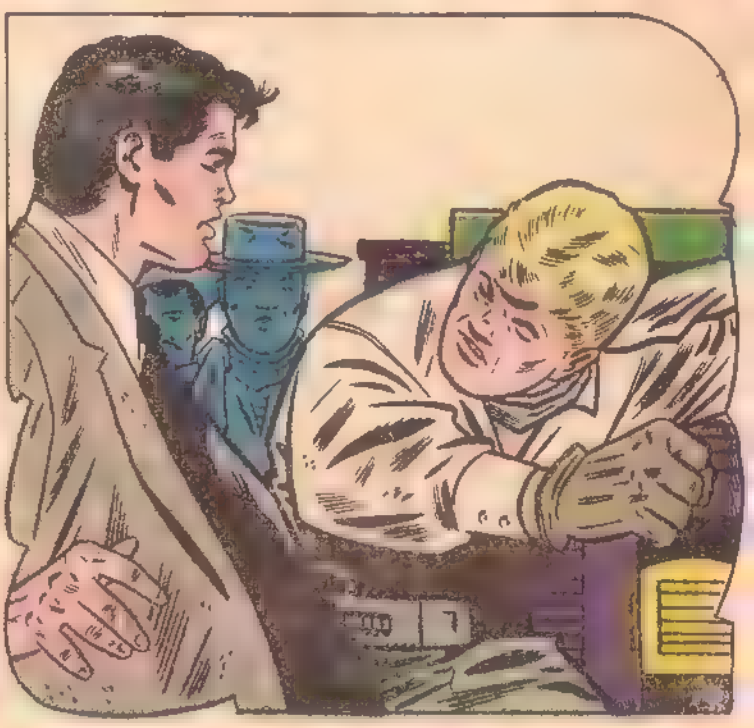
...AND THEREFORE, YOUR HONOR, I SUBMIT THAT THE DEFENDANT, BEN DURAN, COULD NOT HAVE COMMITTED THE CRIME! HARPER MEGGS LIED WHEN HE SAID HE SAW BEN THERE!
YUH GONNA BELIEVE THIS YELLA DUDE? HE'D FIGHT ME IF HE WASN'T A LYIN' TINHORN!


MR. WILCOX, IN THIS COUNTRY, WE HAVE DIFFERENT STANDARDS! I FEEL IT MY DUTY TO WARN YOU THAT YOUR CASE WILL BE JEOPARDIZED IF YOU LET HARPER MEGGS' CHALLENGE PASS UNANSWERED! MEGGS -- YOU OWE THE COURT ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR DISRESPECT!


YOU MEAN I'VE GOT TO BRAWL WITH THE MAN WHO ACCUSED MY CLIENT OF THE ROBBERY?
I INTERPRET THE LAWS, WILCOX, NOT THIS COUNTRY'S CUSTOMS! I'D SAY A GOOD LAWYER'D GO 'LONG WITH THE LOCAL CUSTOMS! YOU BETTER FIGHT MEGGS IF YOU WANT YOUR CLIENT TO GO FREE!

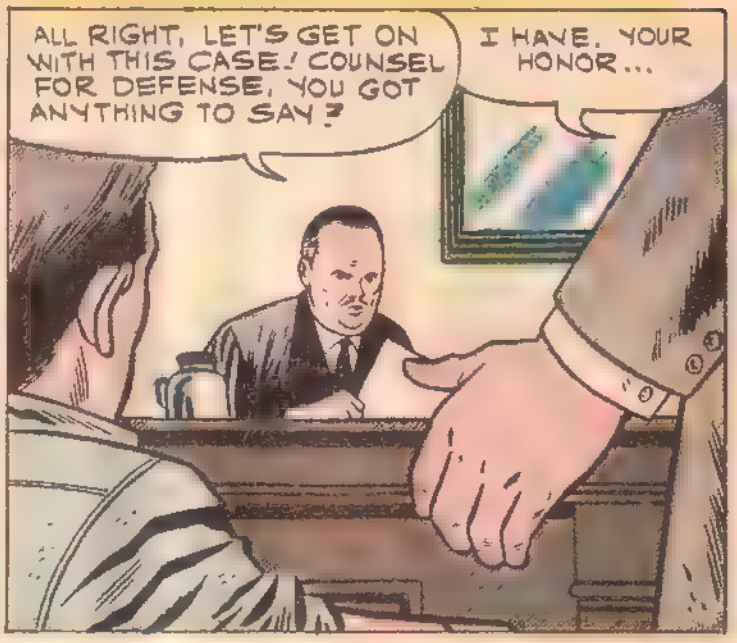
THE SPECTATORS MADE WAY FOR LES WILCOX AND HARPER MEGGS...
GET A GUN, LAWYER! BETTER GET TWO!
I'M NOT A GUNFIGHTER, MEGGS! WE'LL FIGHT WITH OUR FISTS!

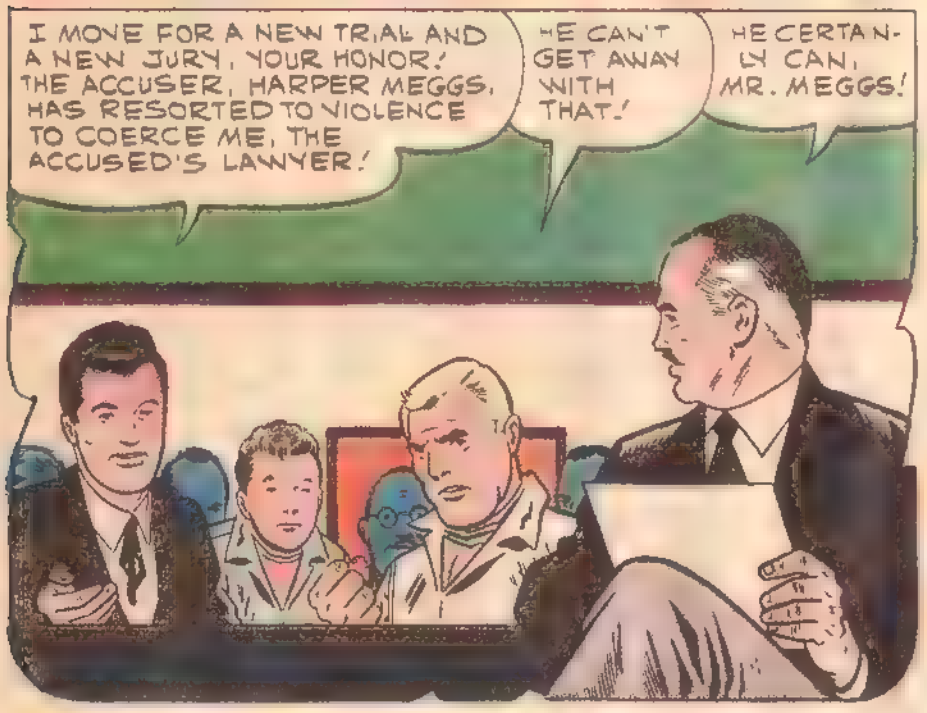

MEGGS MOVED IN, COCKY AND POWERFUL... HIS FIRST SWING ALMOST TORE LES'S HEAD OFF...

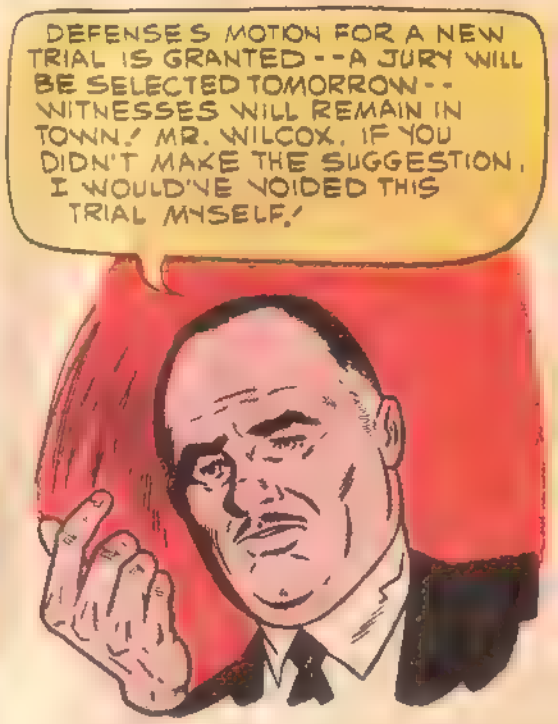


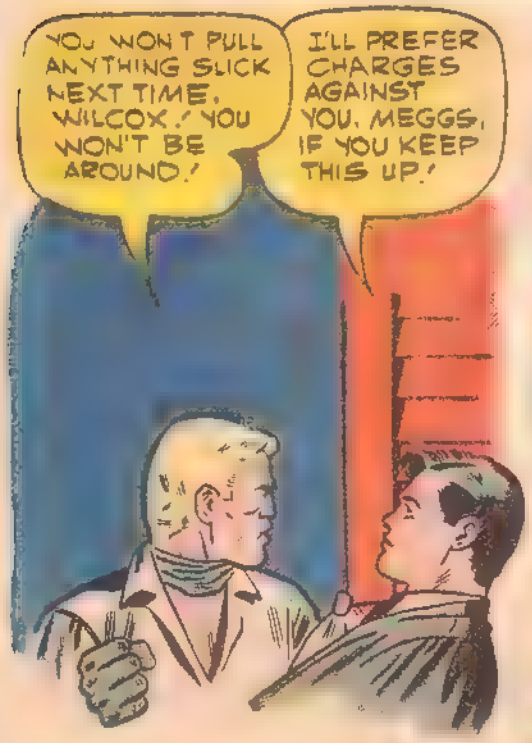
I CAN'T KEEP THIS UP! IF I BEAT HIM, WORD WILL GET BACK THAT I'M A FIGHTING MAN! I'VE GOT TO GET HIT SOMETIME... SO...

LES WILCOX SMILED AT BEN DURAN, AS THE JUDGE RE-OPENED PROCEEDINGS...

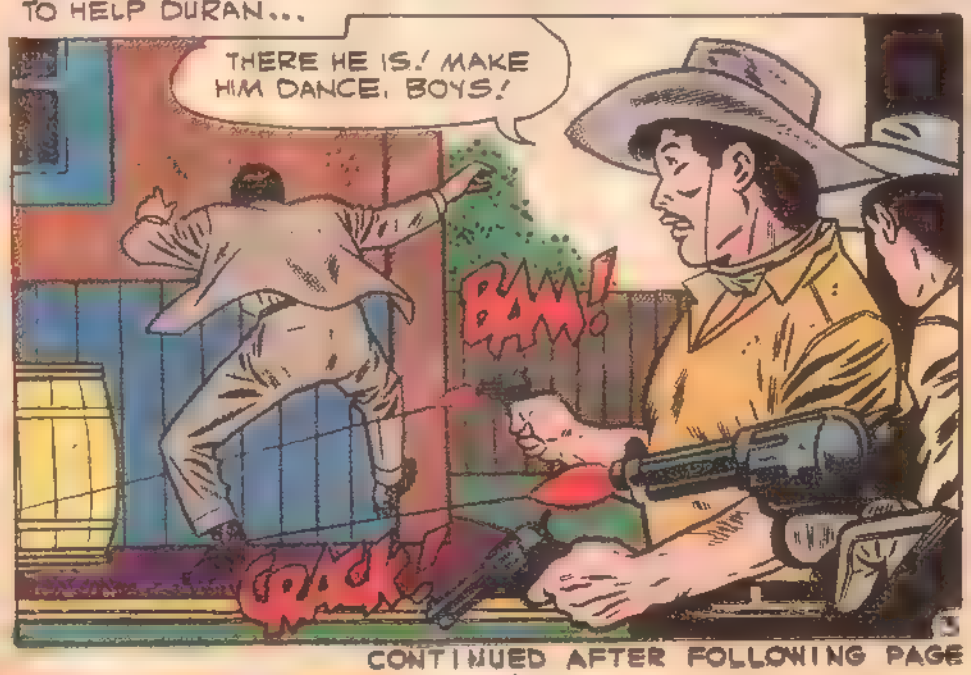



I MOVE FOR A NEW TRIAL AND A NEW JURY, YOUR HONOR! THE ACCUSER, HARPER MEGGS, HAS RESORTED TO VIOLENCE TO COERCE ME, THE ACCUSED'S LAWYER!
HE CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THAT!
HE CERTAINLY CAN, MR. MEGGS!


DEFENSE'S MOTION FOR A NEW TRIAL IS GRANTED--A JURY WILL BE SELECTED TOMORROW--WITNESSES WILL REMAIN IN TOWN! MR. WILCOX, IF YOU DIDN'T MAKE THE SUGGESTION, I WOULD'VE VOIDED THIS TRIAL MYSELF!



AFTER ASSURING BEN DURAN THAT HE'D GET HIM OFF, LAWYER WILCOX WENT OUT--THINKING DESPERATELY OF SOME WAY TO HELP DURAN...



CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

Test your talent

Contest prize:

$430.00 scholarship in commercial art

Pick one of these three heads. Draw it any size you want except a size that would look like a tracing. Use pencil. If you like to draw, here's fun! And everyone who enters this contest gets a professional estimate of his talent at no cost. Winner gets a complete course in advertising art, illustrating, cartooning, or landscape or portrait painting. Plus a set of drawing supplies.

This commercial art training is given by the world's largest home study art school. Students are taught, individually, by professional artists. Illustrated art textbooks come with the course. Many former students now earn upwards from $150 a week as commercial artists. Some earn $25,000 a year.

Contest is sponsored to uncover hidden talent. Entries for July 1960 contest must be received by July 31. None returned. Amateurs only. Our students not eligible.

Use 1 coupon; then pass this page on to a friend. If both coupons have been used, send drawing to Art Instruction, Inc., 500 S. 4th St., Studio 5600, Minneapolis 15, Minn., with your name, age, occupation, and address.

---

2. ART INSTRUCTION, INC., STUDIO 5600
500 South 4th St., Minneapolis 15, Minn.

Please enter my drawing in your draw-a-head contest.
(PLEASE PRINT)

Name_____ AGE_____

Occupation_____

Address_____ Apt._____

City_____ Zone_____

County_____ State_____

---

1. ART INSTRUCTION, INC., STUDIO 5600
500 South 4th St., Minneapolis, 15 Minn.

Please enter my drawing in your draw-a-head contest.
(PLEASE PRINT)

Name_____ AGE_____

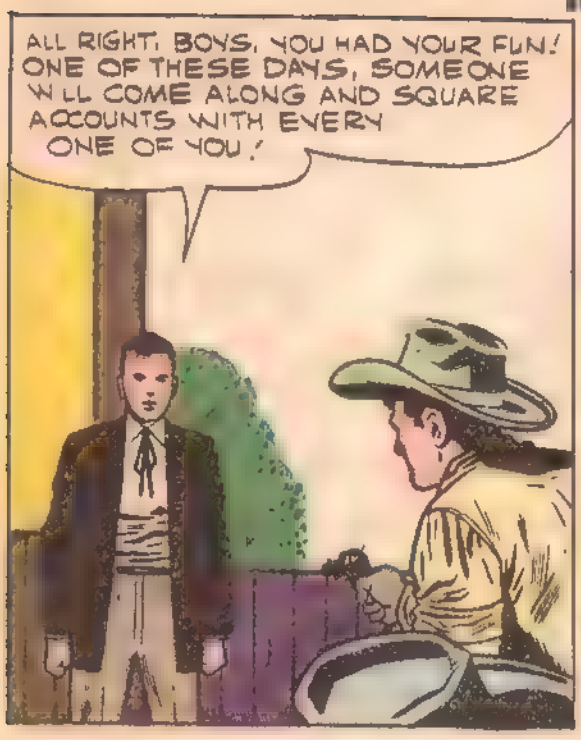
Occupation_____

Address_____ Apt._____

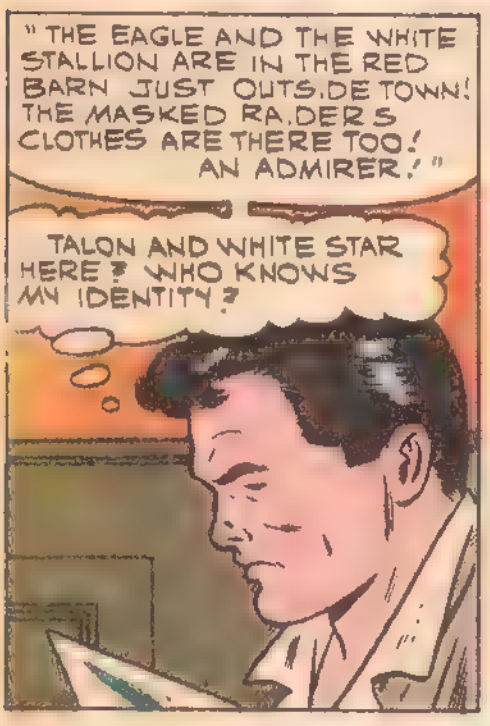
City_____ Zone_____

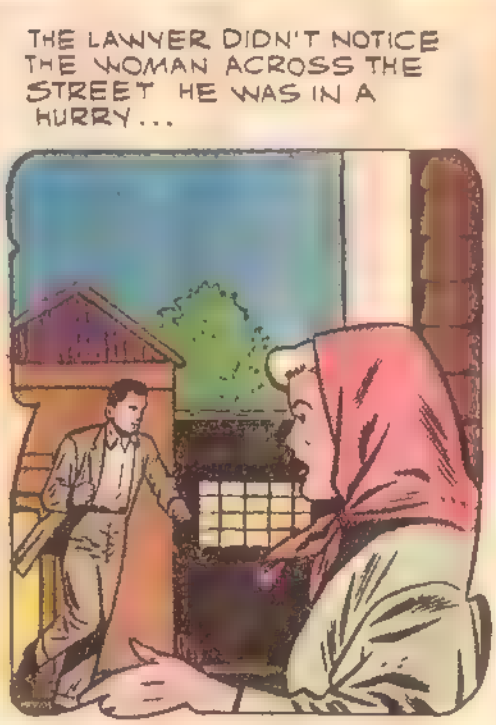
County_____ State_____

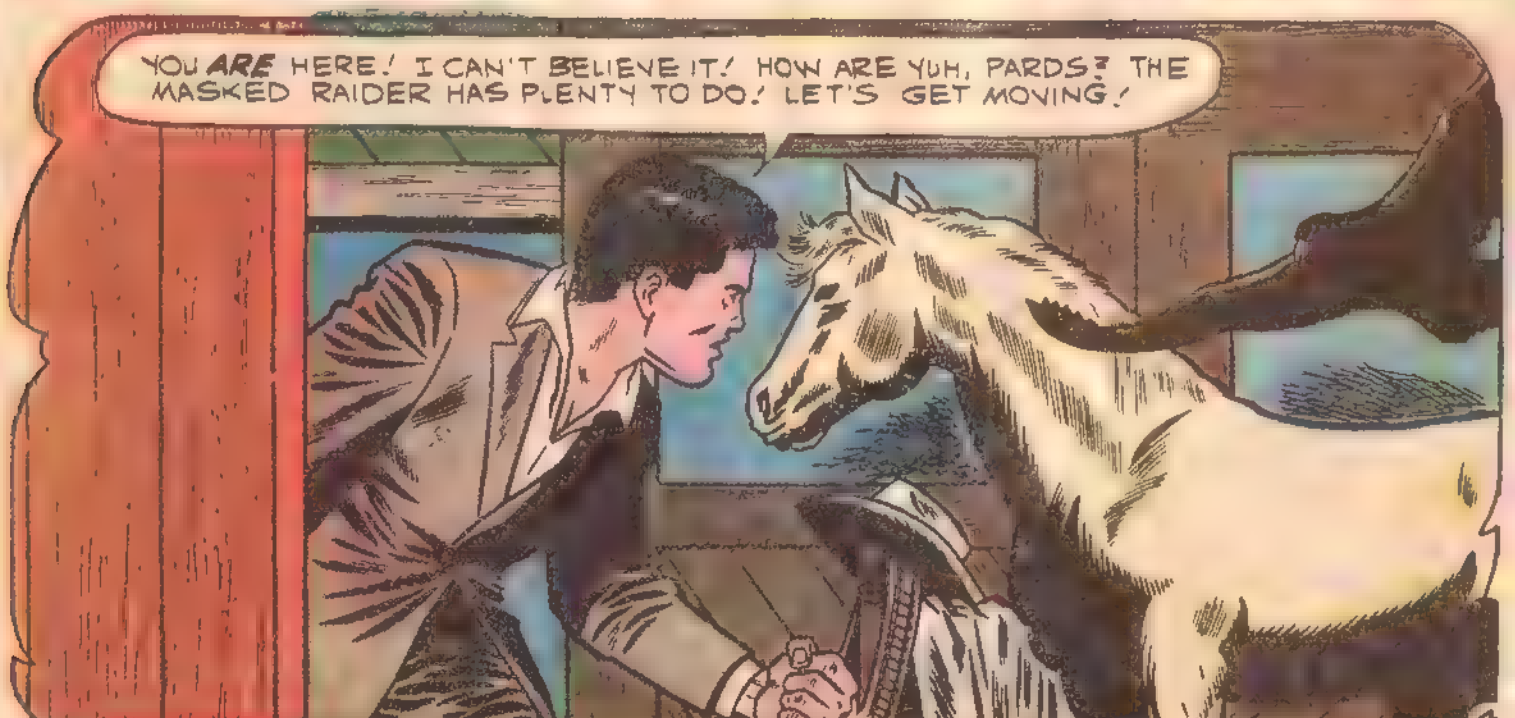
MASKED RAIDER



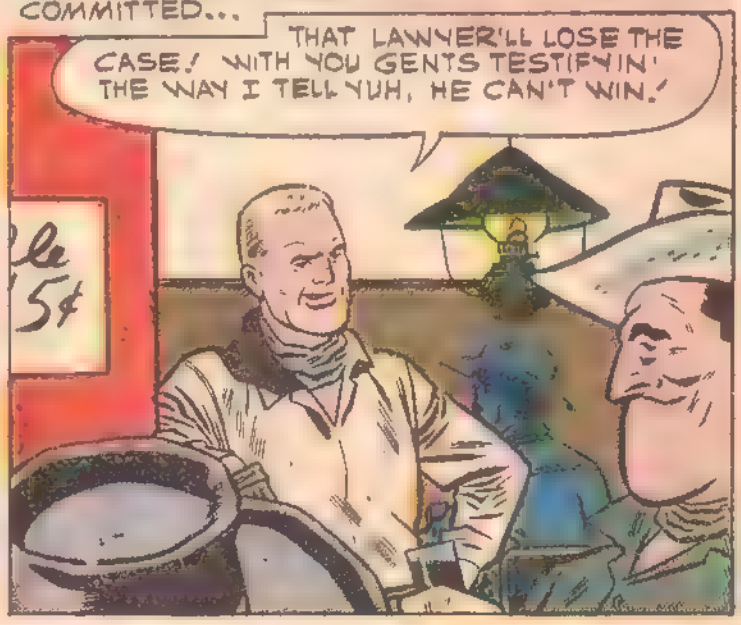
THEY LET WILCOX GO ON HIS WAY THEN.' IN HIS ROOM...
THAT WAS A CHILDISH BLUFF.' AS LES WILCOX, I CAN'T HURT THEM.' IF ONLY TALON AND WHITE STAR WERE... WHAT'S THAT PAPER? A NOTE?


"THE EAGLE AND THE WHITE STALLION ARE IN THE RED BARN JUST OUTSIDE TOWN! THE MASKED RAIDERS CLOTHES ARE THERE TOO! AN ADMIRER.'"
TALON AND WHITE STAR HERE? WHO KNOWS MY IDENTITY?

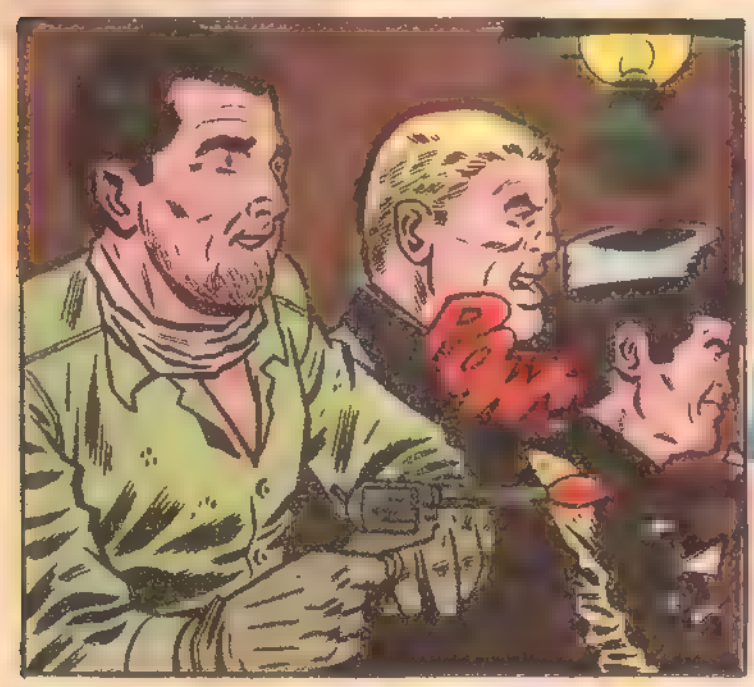




MEANWHILE, HARPER MEGGS WAS CELEBRATING -- WITH ALL HIS GANG, THE MEN TRYING TO RAILROAD BEN DURAN FOR THE CRIME THEY'D COMMITTED...



ONE OF MEGGS' MEN OPENED FIRE...

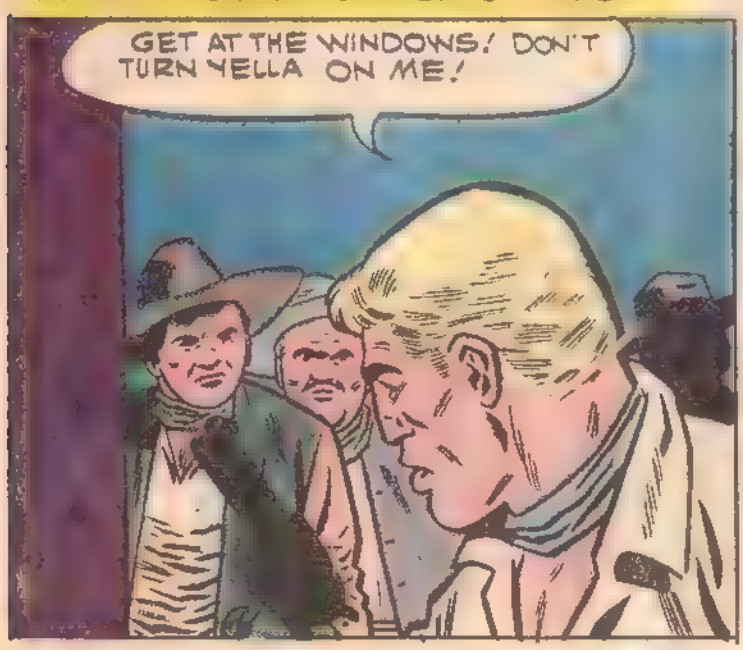


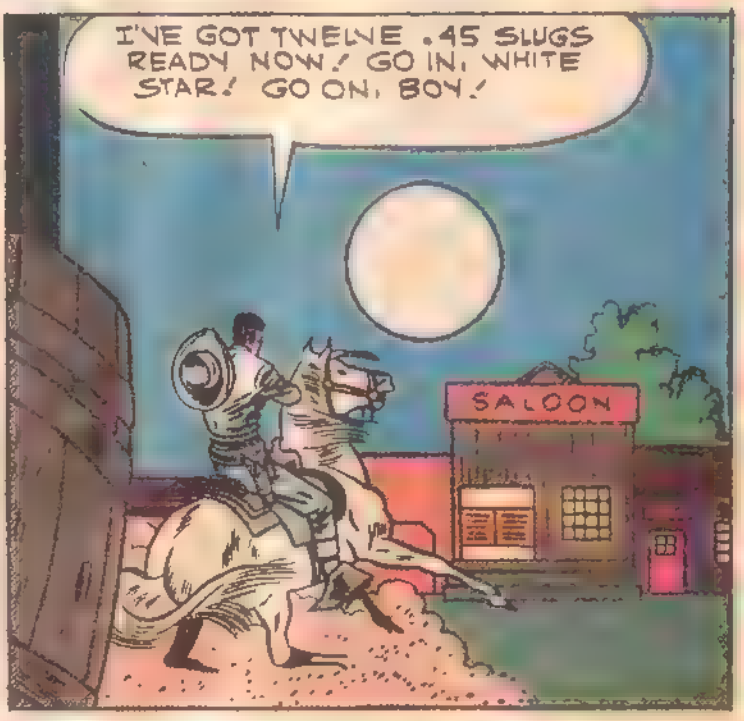
A VERY UNWISE THING TO DO...

MASKED RAIDER

BUT THE BACK DOOR WAS CLOSED TO THEM...

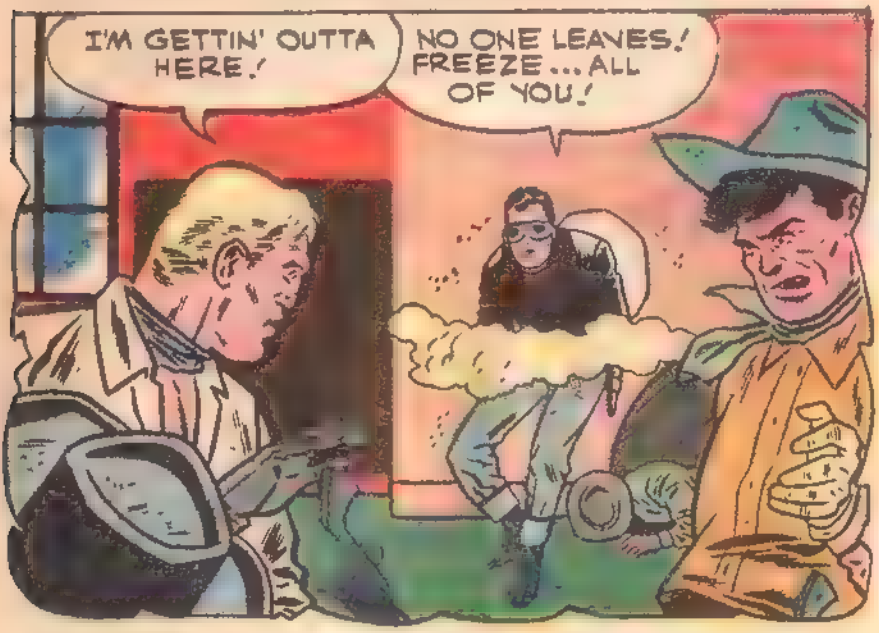
HARPER MEGGS WAS STILL CONFIDENT... HE HAD HALF A DOZEN GUNMEN ON HAND...



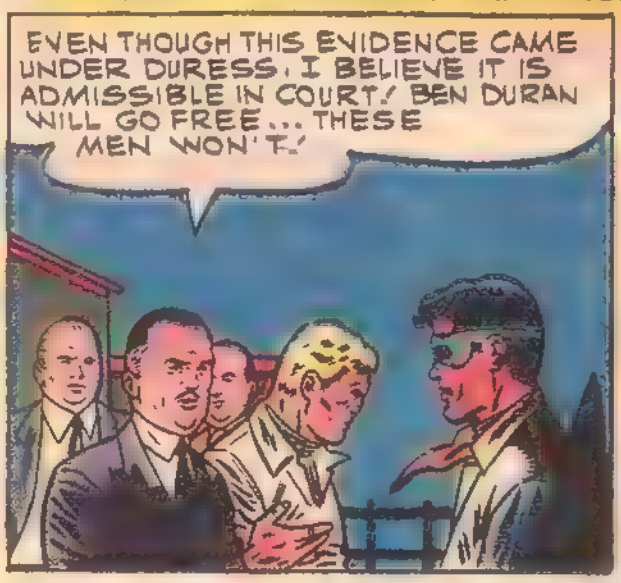


CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

IF THEY'D KEPT CALM, THEY WOULD HAVE WON... BUT MEGGS AND HIS GANG PANICKED... AND MADE IT EASY FOR THE MASKED RAIDER...

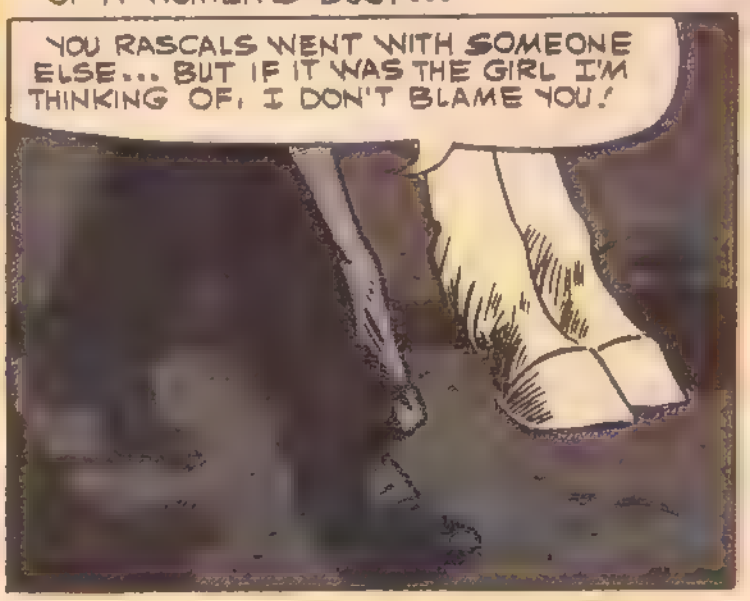


HARPER MEGGS BABBLED THE STORY OF THE MANNIX HOLD-UP AND THE WAY THEY'D TRIED TO FRAME BEN DURAN! RELIABLE MEN WERE THERE AND HEARD IT--INCLUDING THE JUDGE!

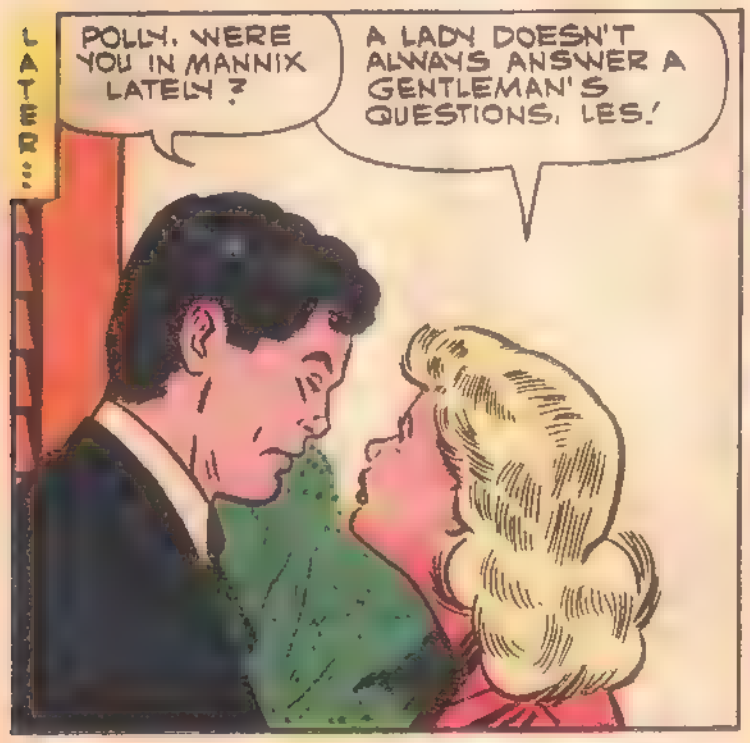


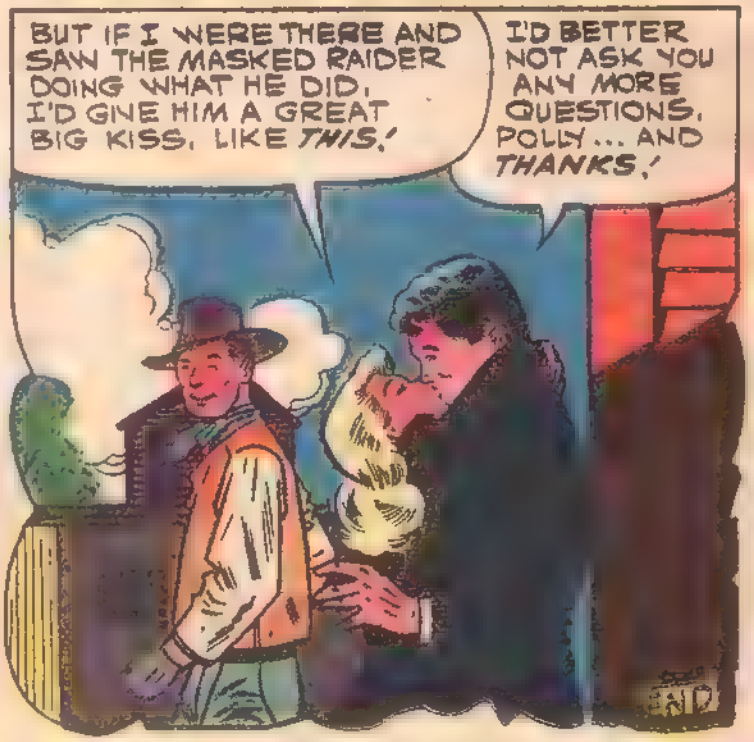
THAT WOUND UP LES WILCOX'S JOB IN MANNIX! HE WAS PUZZLED ABOUT HOW TO GET WHITE STAR AND TALON BACK TO THEIR HOME CAVE. WHEN HE WENT TO THE RED BARN LATER, HE FOUND...

LES WILCOX TOOK THE STAGE HOME...HE FOUND TALON AND WHITE STAR IN THE CAVE... PLUS THE DELICATE TRACERIES OF A WOMEN'S BOOT...



LATER...




BUT IF I WERE THERE AND SAW THE MASKED RAIDER DOING WHAT HE DID, I'D GIVE HIM A GREAT BIG KISS, LIKE THIS!
I'D BETTER NOT ASK YOU ANY MORE QUESTIONS, POLLY... AND THANKS!

FUR FORTS

So you want to know more about the old trading posts in the West? The Old Timer at the Frontier Museum is just the man to give you all the information. Now he's going to speak so you better give him your full attention.

"To one who has never given the subject special attention, the large number of establishments, dignified with the name of forts, posts, or houses, that existed in the heart of the wilderness long before the tide of western emigration had set in, would seem almost incredible. In 1843 there were in existence in the country tributary to St. Louis no fewer than one hundred and fifty occupied or abandoned posts.

The names of more than one hundred have been recovered. Some of these were really great establishments and lasted many years. Others were very temp- -- affairs being occupied only for a season or two. Abandoned sites were frequently re- c-oied, often by different companies who gave them new names. By far the greater number of the- -sts lay along the Missouri River.

These establishments were generally designed as "f ts". Their primary purpose was trade. But in a land of the redskins they served the purpose of protection as well. Their construction was therefore adapted to both ends. The ground plan of the typical trading post was always a rectangle. Sometimes square but generally a little longer in one direction than the other.

The sides varied in length from one to four hundred feet depending upon the magnitude of the trade which the post must accommodate. In order to ensure the necessary protection the fort was enclosed with strong walls of wood or adobe. There were a few posts built of adobe, but these were the exception. The typical fort was protected by wooden palisades or pickets were squared and set opposite each other. They were set from two to three feet in the ground and the earth was generally banked up to a small height against them.

In some forts there were musketry loopholes along the top of this embankment for the purpose of guard duty. And also for active defense a plant walk was bracketed to the inside of the pickets about four feet below the top so that sentinels could walk there and observe the ground outside. In case of attack the defenders could mount this walk and fire over the palisades or through the loopholes provided for the purpose.

The main reliance for defense consisted of two bastions, or blockhouses as they were commonly called, placed at diagonally opposite corners of the fort. They were square in plan, and fifteen to eighteen feet on a side with two stories and were generally covered with a roof. The lower floor was a few feet above the level of the ground, and was loopholed for the small cannon which all the more important posts possessed. Then above the artillery floor was another musketry defense with about three loopholes on each exposed face.

The blockhouse stood entirely outside the main enclosure. Its inner corner joining the corner of the fort so that it flanked two sides. That is, the defenders in each bastion could fire along the outer face of the two sides of the fort and thus prevent any attempt to scale or demolish the walls.

A "fort" thus constructed was really very strong, and was practically impregnable to an enemy without artillery. A host of Indians armed with bows and arrows or with the indifferent firearms of those days could make no impression upon it. And the garrison could look with indifference upon any attack however formidable. So long as they used reasonable precaution and were supplied with provisions and ammunition. There is no record of a successful siege of a stockaded fort in the entire history of the fur trade west of the Mississippi.

The necessary prerequisite of defense having been satisfied, the other arrangements of the fort related to the purposes of trade. The entrance was through a strong and heavy door provided with a wicket through which the storekeeper could examine a person applying for admittance. In the more elaborate posts there was a double door with a room and a trading counter between them. The Indians were admitted only to this space for the purpose of trade. In the single door posts trading was sometimes conducted through the wicket when there was a suspicion of danger.

On the opposite side of the enclosure from the entrance stood the house of the bourgeois, usually the most pretentious building in the post. Nearby stood the office and the house of the clerks. Along one side of the quardrangle stood the barracks of the hired hands while across the square were the store houses for the merchandise, provisions, furs, and peltries. There were also buildings for shops, of which the blacksmith shop was the most important. The buildings usually stood with their back walls on the line of the enclosure. And for the distance covered by them they sometimes replaced the pickets.

In the center of the enclosure was a large square or court in which ordinarily stood a piece of artillery trained upon the entrance, and a flag staff from which the flag of the republic daily floated to the prairie breeze. Close to the fort, and itself protected by a strong enclosure with a communication through the walls of the fort, there was often to be found a small field in which common vegetables were raised by the garrison.

There was always some protection for the horses which were the great object of the Indian raids. Sometimes the corral was outside and close to the fort. But in many cases the stock were brought within the walls. On the plains around the post there was scarcely ever absent the characteristic tent of the Indian. At certain seasons they were scattered by hundreds in every direction.

Near most of the larger river posts there was some spot selected where the timber was abundant. The pickets and lumber for the post were manufactured, the mackinaw boats and the canoes built and such other work done as the establishment required. These places were called CHANTIERS, the French for shipyard. The name has survived in one or two places as at Chantier Creek in South Dakota and Shonkin Creek which was first called Chantier Creek, a little below Fort Benton in Montana. The Fort Pierre chantier was commonly called the Navy Yard and was twenty miles or so above the post.

The description given applies only to the larger posts. There were besides a great number of smaller posts which were intended for temporary occupancy only and were accordingly of a much less pretentious character. In many cases the resources of the traders did not permit anything except the most primitive structures. Generally these posts or houses were simply log buildings, perhaps two or three huddled together but often only one. They were scattered all over the West. The names and localities of most of them have been forgotten.

In the upper Missouri country the smaller posts were not independent establishments, but were connected with some larger post from which they received supplies, equipment and men, and to which they send the produce of their trade. Union and Pierre are the most prominent examples of the larger posts to each of which there were connected a number of smaller establishments.

Life at these trading posts, buried as they were in the depths of the wilderness, was dull, uninteresting and lonely for the greater part of the year. For the most part the steady routine of the work kept up day by day. Receiving and dismissing bands of Indians who came in to trade. Watching the country for signs of buffalo, and when they came sending parties to hunt them. Preparing and dispatching the winter express to St. Louis. Cutting wood for the annual steamboat at such posts as were on the river. Keeping the accounts books, journals and correspondence of the posts. Receiving returns from subordinate houses and baling and pressing furs for St. Louis.

Once or twice a year bundles of newspapers arrived from the outer world and these were read and re-read until worn out by the handling. Occasionally distinguished visitors passed weeks or months at the post thus adding a new and interesting element to its life. Hunting was the one great amusement and in this the buffalo chose stood supreme. The most notable event in the life of the trading post was the arrival of the annual convoy from the States. Whether the steamboat or keelboat on the Missouri, the brigade in the mountains, or the caravan on the plains.

In the matter of geographical distribution the controlling factor in the location of the posts was the convenience of the Indians. Not infrequently the tribes arbitrarily designated the spots where the posts should be built. The post at the mouth of the Yellowstone commanded the commerce of two great rivers and became a most important establishment.

Wonder if the fur trader in those days ever dreamed that some day we would have electric heated suits?"

THE END

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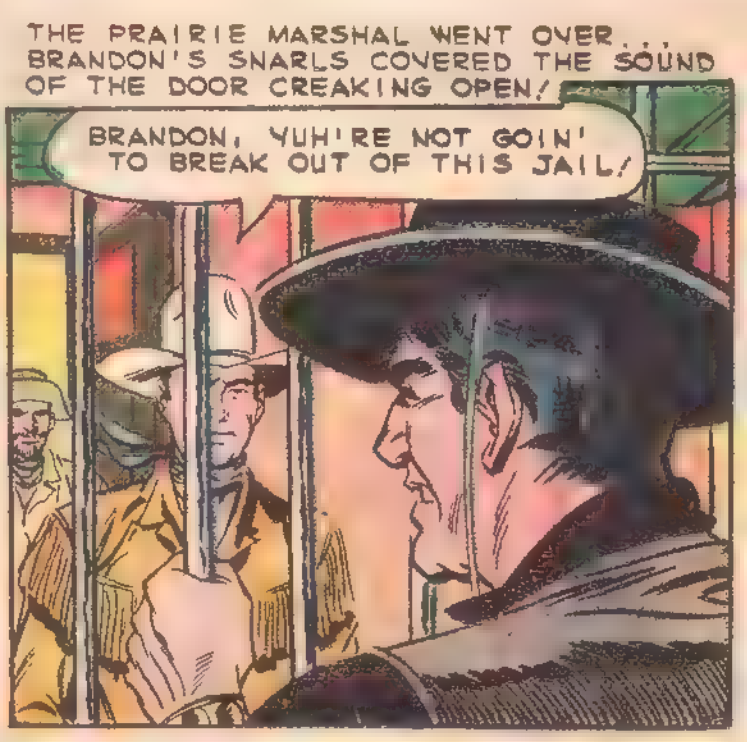
in BRANDON'S ESCAPE

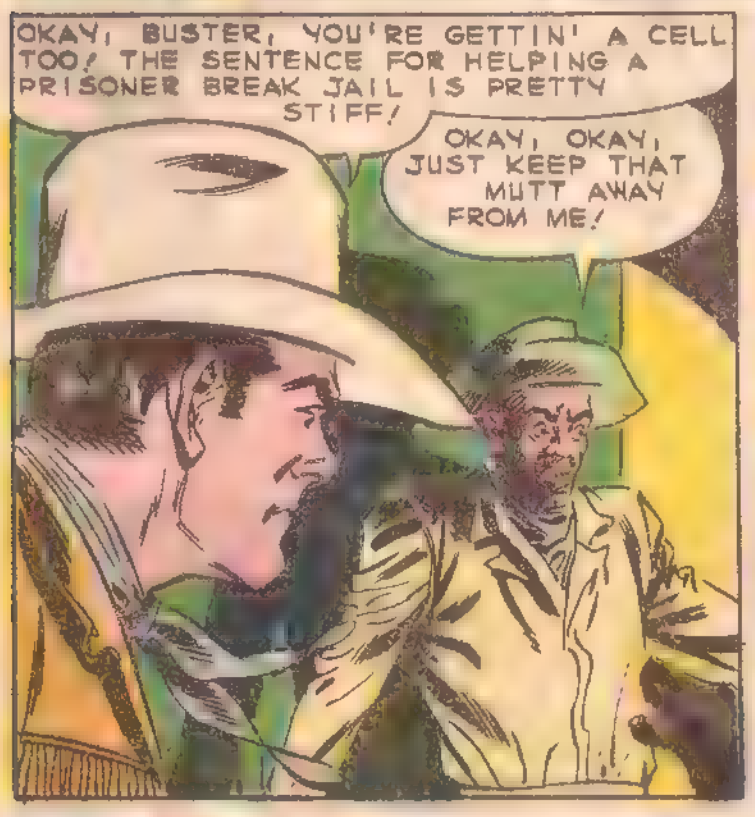
BRANDON WAS QUIET...AND TEX RITTER DIDN'T TRUST THE OUTLAW WHEN HE WASN'T BRAGGING ABOUT HIS MISDEEDS...

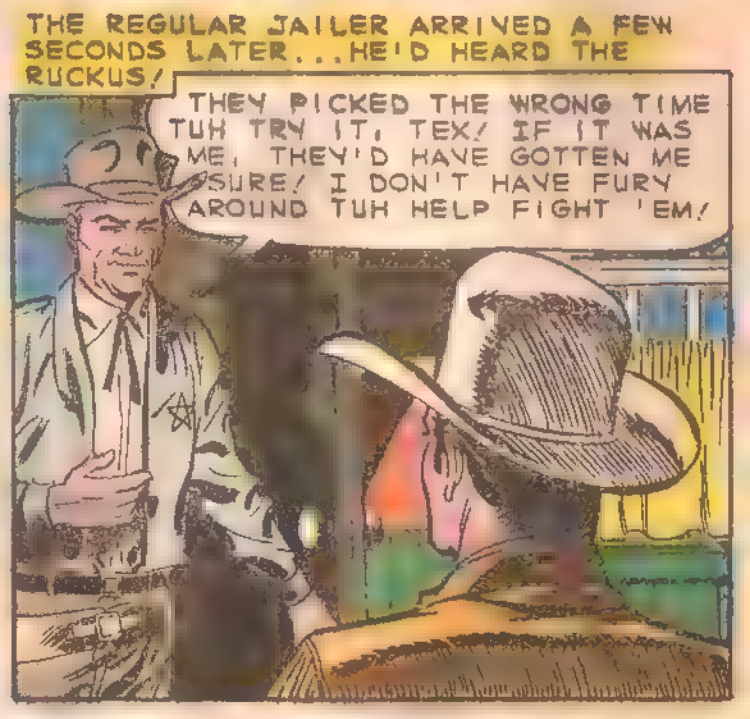

THE PRAIRIE MARSHAL WENT OVER... BRANDON'S SNARLS COVERED THE SOUND OF THE DOOR CREAKING OPEN!
BRANDON, YUH'RE NOT GOIN' TO BREAK OUT OF THIS JAIL!

BRANDON HAD SWORN THAT HE'D BREAK OUT--TEX RITTER WAS THERE TO SEE THAT HE WOULDN'T! BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW FAST THEY'D WORK--HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT BRANDON WOULD GRAB HIS SHIRT AND HOLD HIM WHILE ANOTHER ONE, IDAHO JOHN, CAME AT HIM FROM BEHIND!
GET HIM, IDAHO JOHN!
WANTE
NICHOLAS AND TRADAN

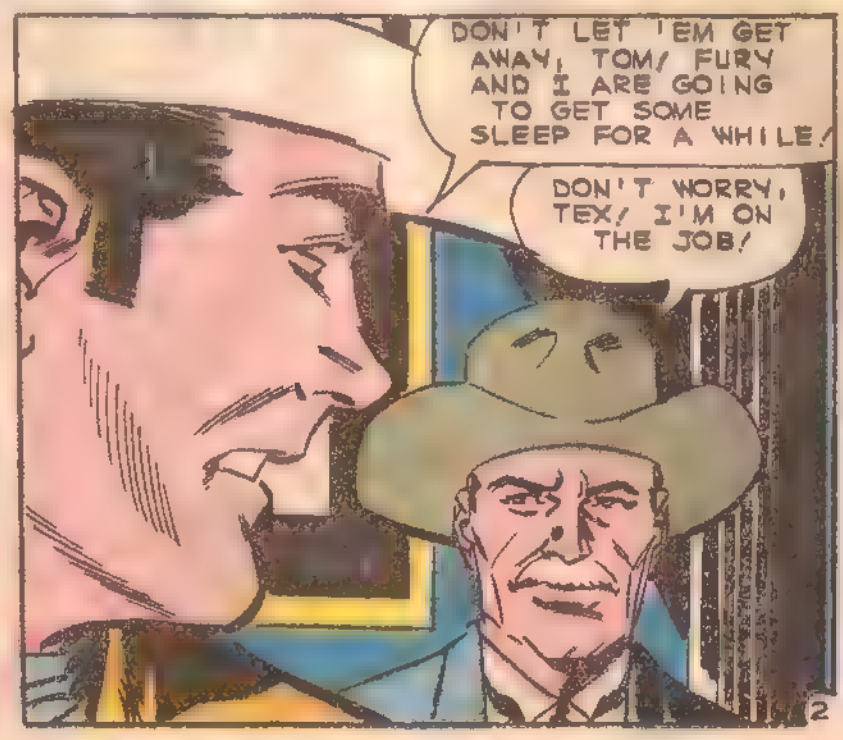
FURY, EVER ALERT, MADE HIS LEAP...

IDAHO--QUICK, GET HIM!
IT DIDN'T WORK, BRANDON!

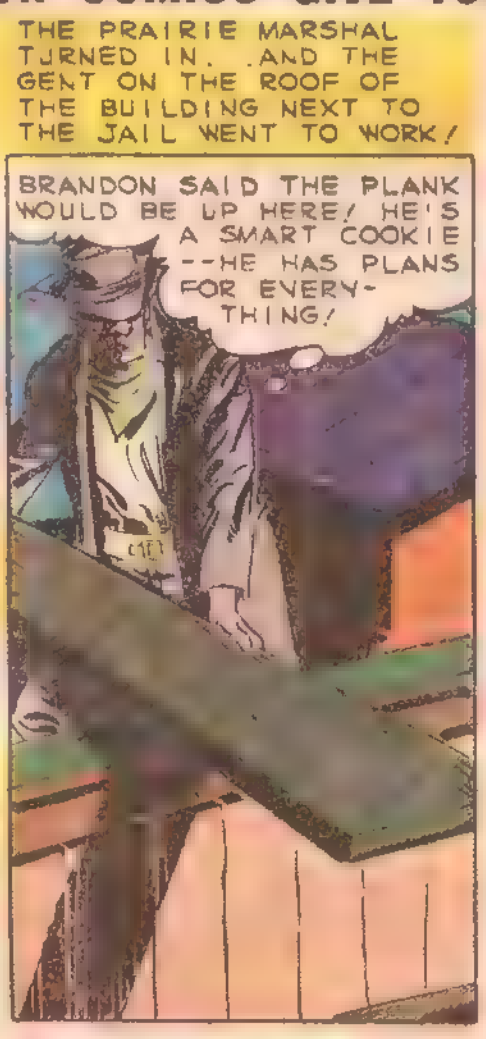

OKAY, BUSTER, YOU'RE GETTIN' A CELL TOO! THE SENTENCE FOR HELPING A PRISONER BREAK JAIL IS PRETTY STIFF!
OKAY, OKAY, JUST KEEP THAT MUTT AWAY FROM ME!


THE REGULAR JAILER ARRIVED A FEW SECONDS LATER...HE'D HEARD THE RUCKUS!
THEY PICKED THE WRONG TIME TUH TRY IT, TEX! IF IT WAS ME, THEY'D HAVE GOTTEN ME SURE! I DON'T HAVE FURY AROUND TUH HELP FIGHT 'EM!

FURY'S A FINE DEPUTY--HE'S ON THE JOB TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY AND HE NEVER ASKS FOR A DAY OFF! GOOD DOG!


DON'T LET 'EM GET AWAY, TOM! FURY AND I ARE GOING TO GET SOME SLEEP FOR A WHILE!
DON'T WORRY, TEX! I'M ON THE JOB!

TEX AND FURY CHECKED AROUND THE JAIL BEFORE THEY RETIRED... NEITHER OF THEM SAW THE MAN ON THE ROOF OF THE ADJACENT BUILDING!
NOTHING OUT HERE, FURY! STOP GROWLING--WE'D SEE ANYONE HANGING AROUND!

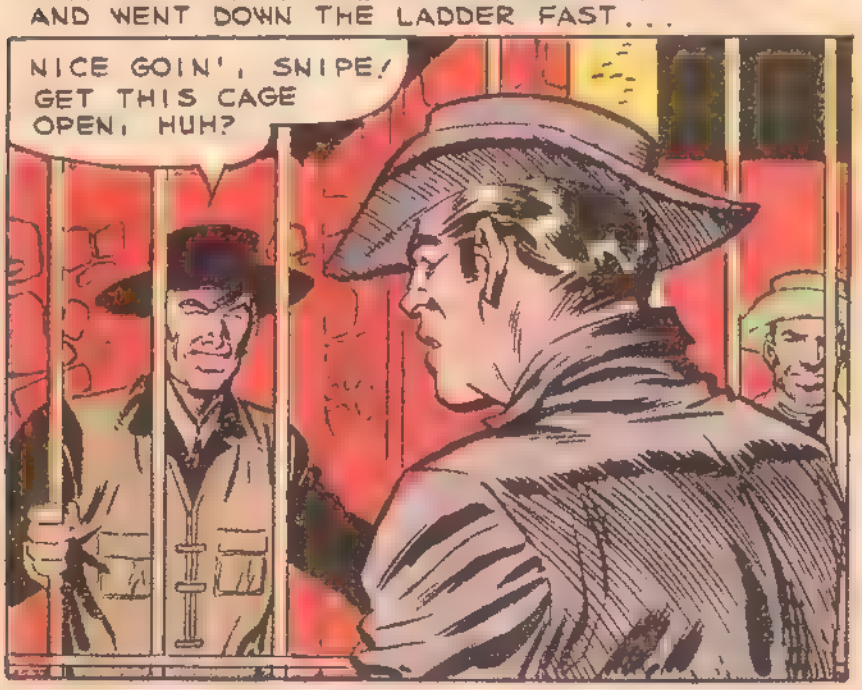

THE PRAIRIE MARSHAL TURNED IN...AND THE GENT ON THE ROOF OF THE BUILDING NEXT TO THE JAIL WENT TO WORK!
BRANDON SAID THE PLANK WOULD BE UP HERE! HE'S A SMART COOKIE --HE HAS PLANS FOR EVERYTHING!

I DON'T LIKE THIS PART OF IT--I SURE HOPE I DON'T HAVE TO COME BACK THIS WAY!

IN THE JAIL BELOW, TOM TUTTLE WAS WIDE AWAKE ...HE HEARD THE SCRAPING NOISE ON THE ROOF!
HEY, JAILER, YUH HEAR THAT? SOMEONE'S UP ON THE ROOF!

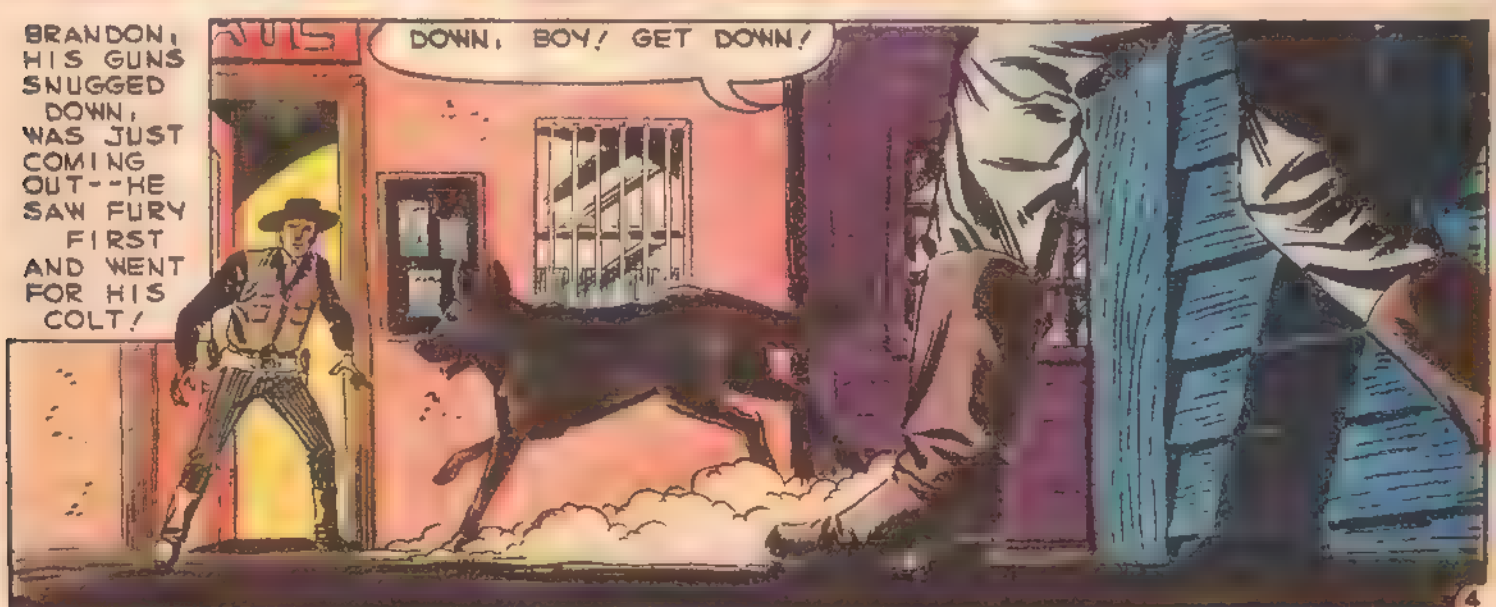
THE JAILER DIDN'T LIKE IT ...BUT HE WENT UP THE LADDER TO THE TRAP-DOOR TO INVESTIGATE!

BRANDON'S ACCOMPLICE GRABBED THE KEYS AND WENT DOWN THE LADDER FAST...

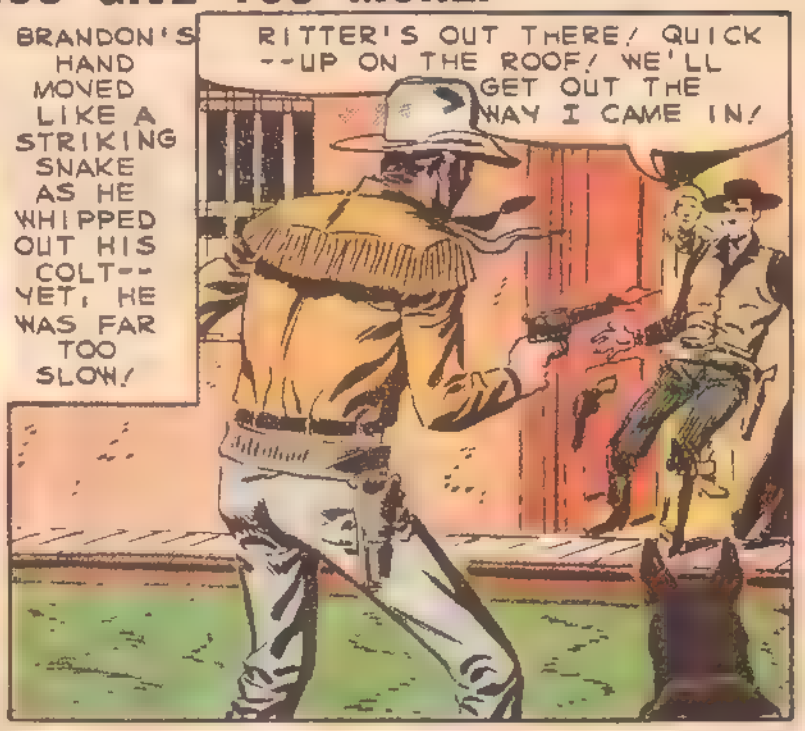


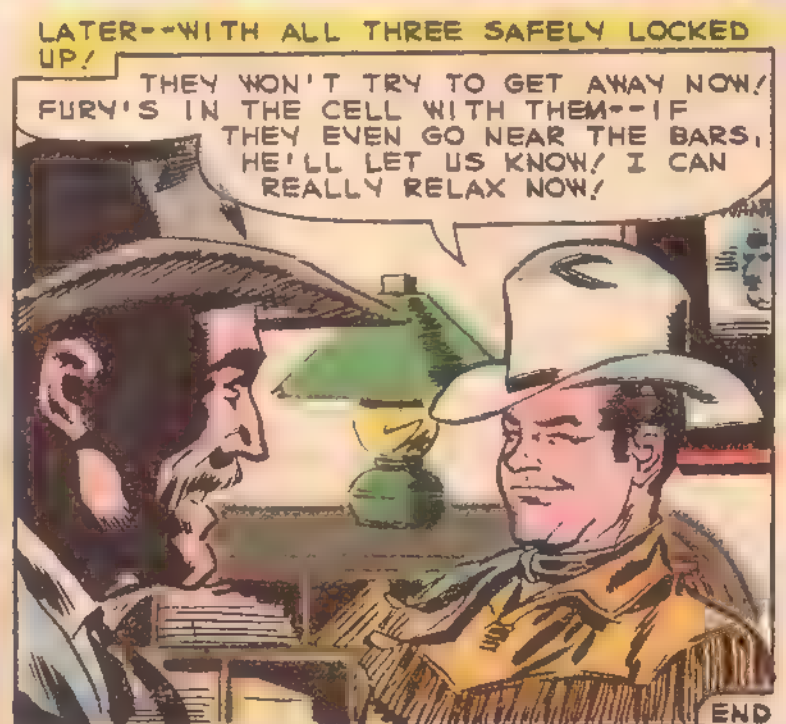
IT WAS FURY THAT HEARD THEM, FURY WHO SENSED THAT SOMETHING WAS WRONG!

BRANDON, HIS GUNS SNUGGED DOWN, WAS JUST COMING OUT--HE SAW FURY FIRST AND WENT FOR HIS COLT!

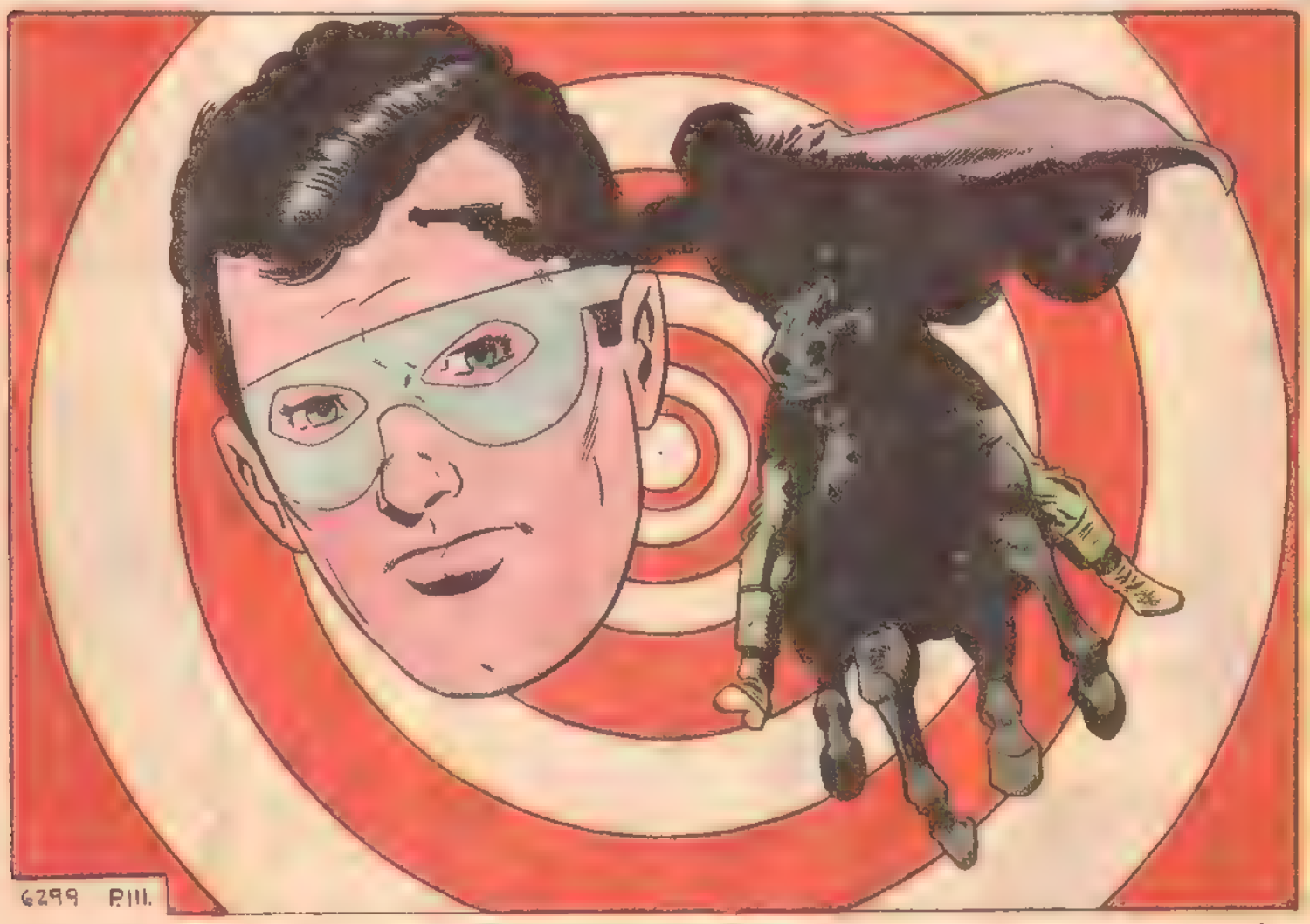


CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!


BRANDON'S HAND MOVED LIKE A STRIKING SNAKE AS HE WHIPPED OUT HIS COLT-- YET, HE WAS FAR TOO SLOW!
RITTER'S OUT THERE! QUICK --UP ON THE ROOF! WE'LL GET OUT THE WAY I CAME IN!

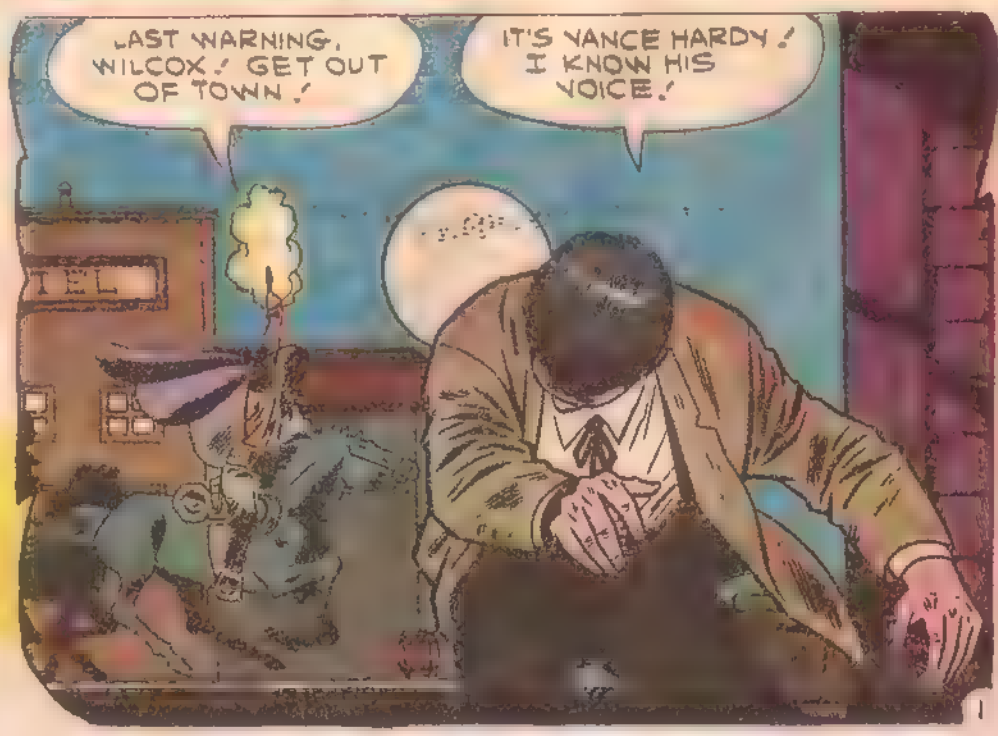

LATER--WITH ALL THREE SAFELY LOCKED UP!
THEY WON'T TRY TO GET AWAY NOW! FURY'S IN THE CELL WITH THEM--IF THEY EVEN GO NEAR THE BARS, HE'LL LET US KNOW! I CAN REALLY RELAX NOW!
END

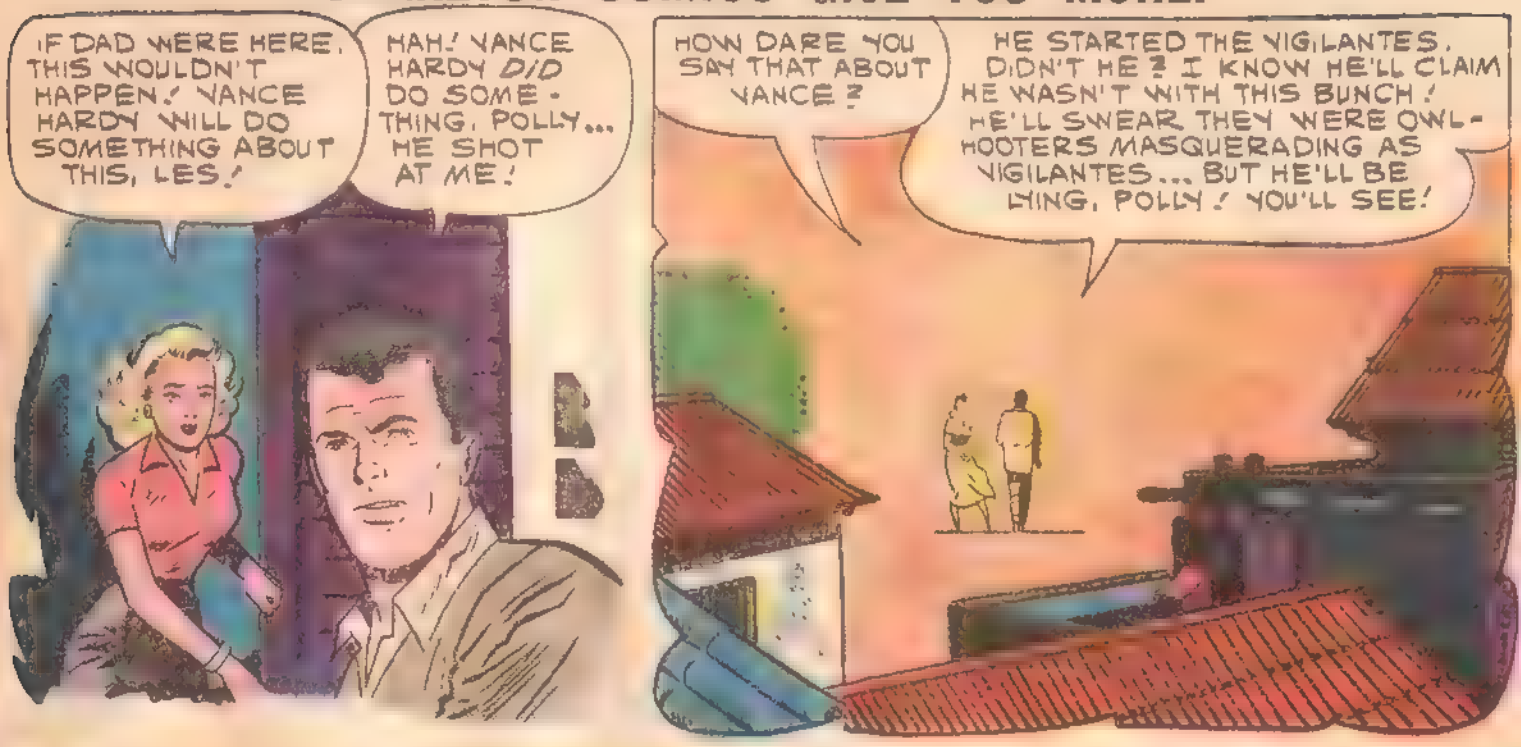
MASKED RAIDER

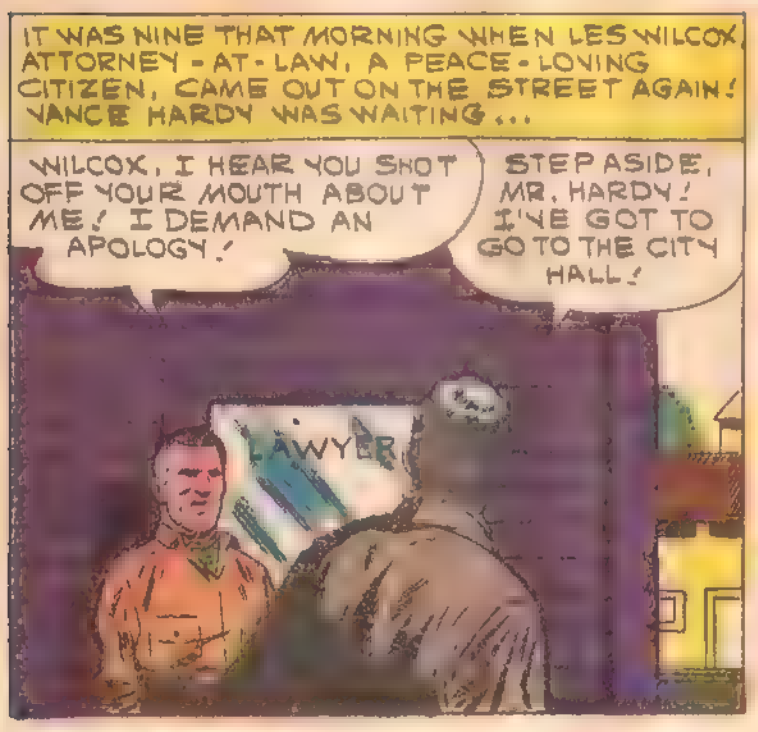


SHERIFF GARRETT WAS GONE... HE'D BE AWAY FOR MONTHS! AND HIS ONLY DEPUTY IN TOWN HAD QUIT WHEN THE GUN-TOUGHS BEGAN SNIPING AT HIM FROM DARK ALLEYS! SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE... AND VANCE HARDY, A POLITICALLY AMBITIOUS NEWCOMER IN TOWN, DID IT! HE ORGANIZED THE VIGILANTES... SO THINGS GOT WORSE!

'VIGILANTE TERROR'



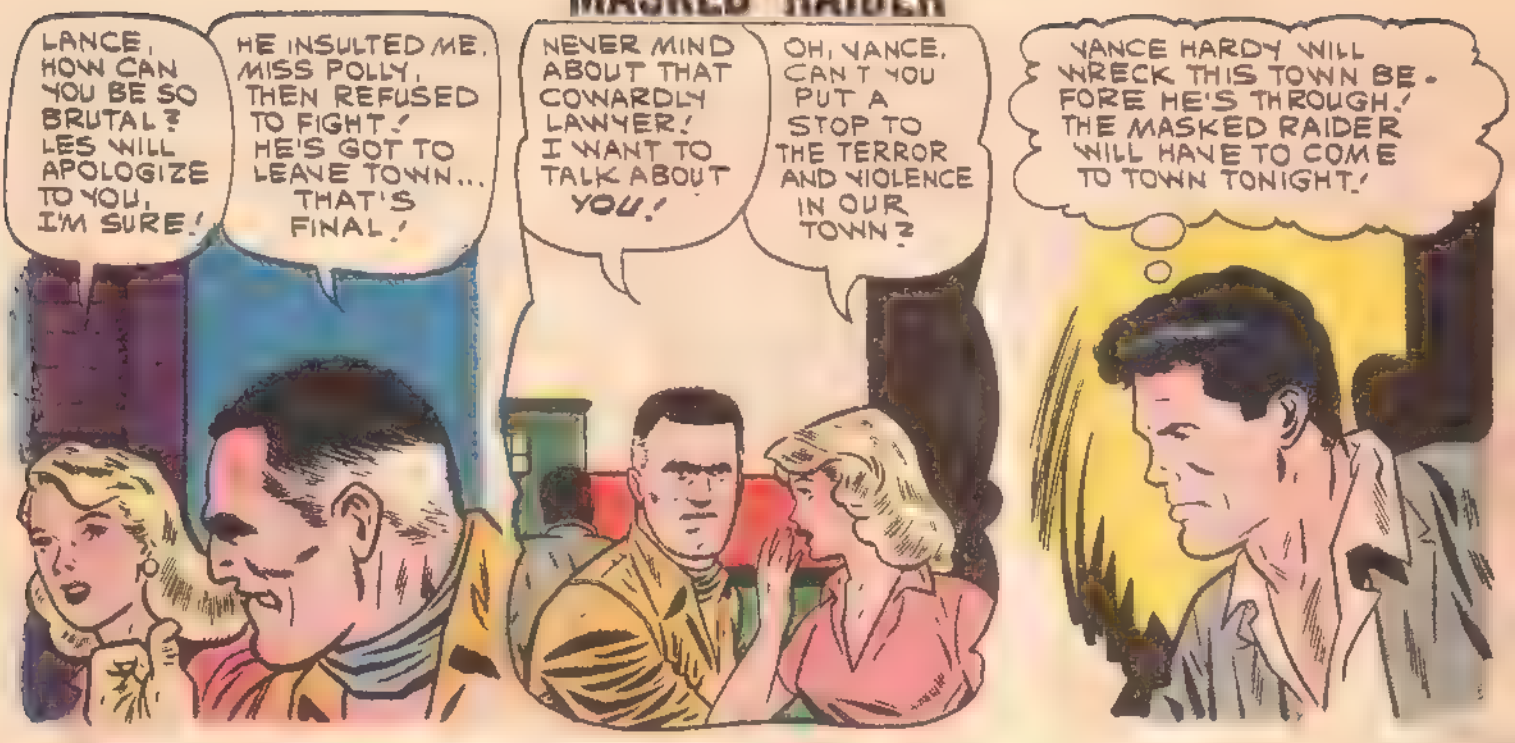

IF DAD WERE HERE, THIS WOULDN'T HAPPEN! VANCE HARDY WILL DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS, LES!
HAH! VANCE HARDY DID DO SOMETHING, POLLY... HE SHOT AT ME!
HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT ABOUT VANCE?
HE STARTED THE VIGILANTES, DIDN'T HE? I KNOW HE'LL CLAIM HE WASN'T WITH THIS BUNCH! HE'LL SWEAR THEY WERE OWL-HOOTERS MASQUERADING AS VIGILANTES... BUT HE'LL BE LYING, POLLY! YOU'LL SEE!


IT WAS NINE THAT MORNING WHEN LES WILCOX, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, A PEACE-LOVING CITIZEN, CAME OUT ON THE STREET AGAIN! VANCE HARDY WAS WAITING...
WILCOX, I HEAR YOU SHOT OFF YOUR MOUTH ABOUT ME! I DEMAND AN APOLOGY!
STEP ASIDE, MR. HARDY! I'VE GOT TO GO TO THE CITY HALL!
LAWYER

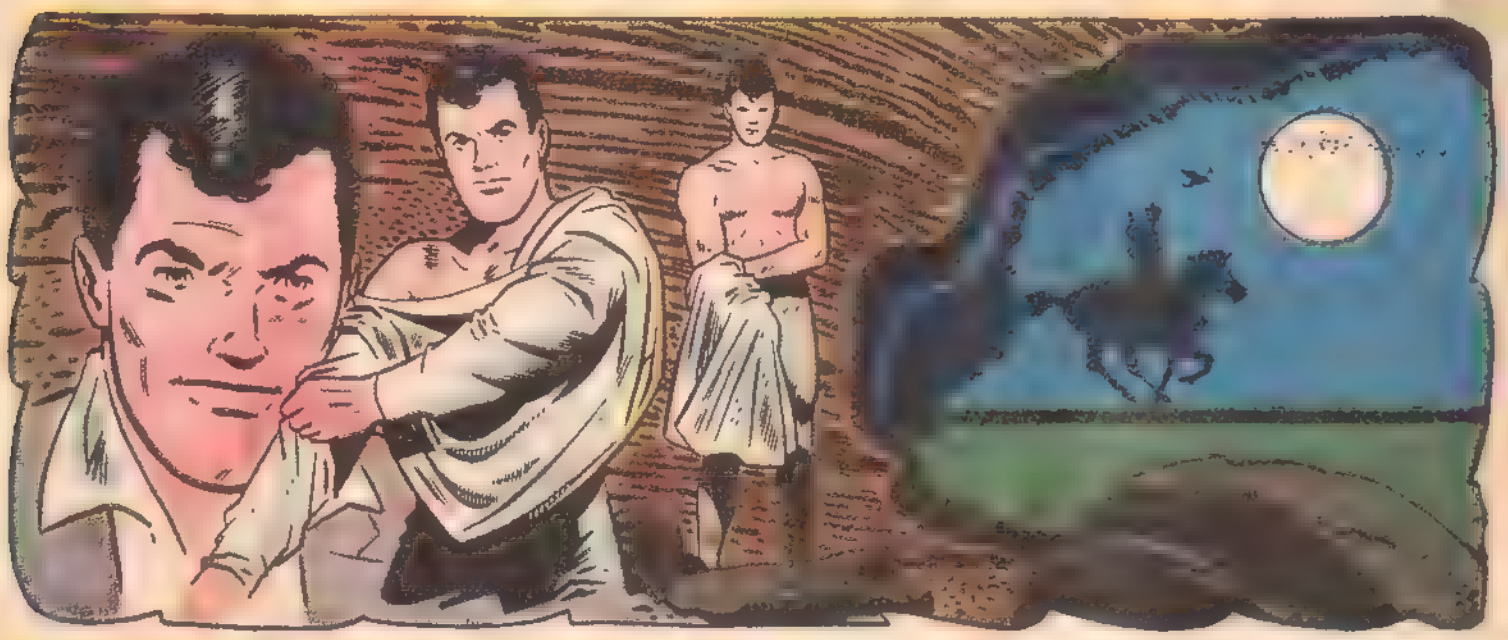
YOU'RE YELLOW, WILCOX! HERE'S A GUN... LET'S SETTLE IT RIGHT NOW!
NO, HARDY! I'M NOT A GUNMAN!

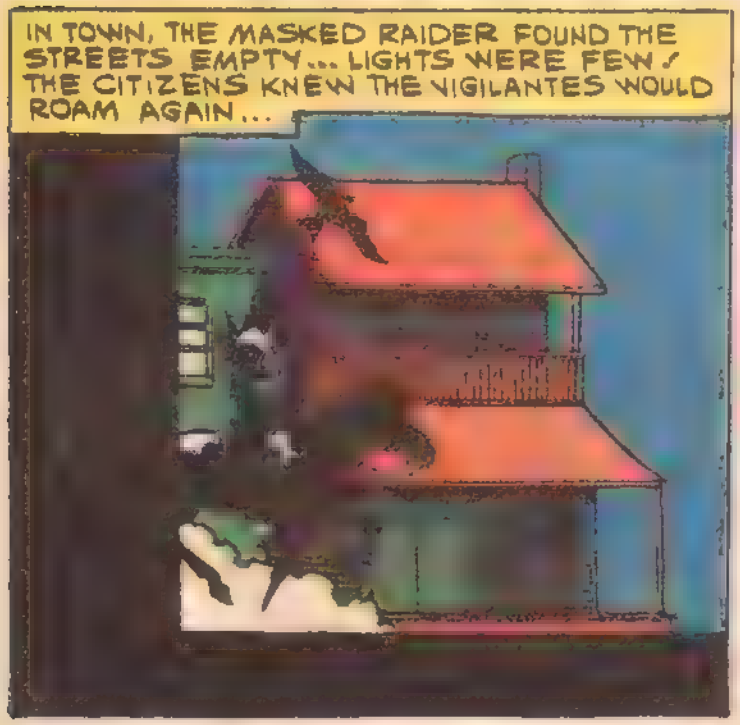
GET OUT OF TOWN, WILCOX! YOU'VE GOT UNTIL SUNDOWN TO DO IT!
I'LL LEAVE, MR. HARDY! I DON'T WANT TROUBLE WITH YOU OR YOUR MASKED GUNMEN!

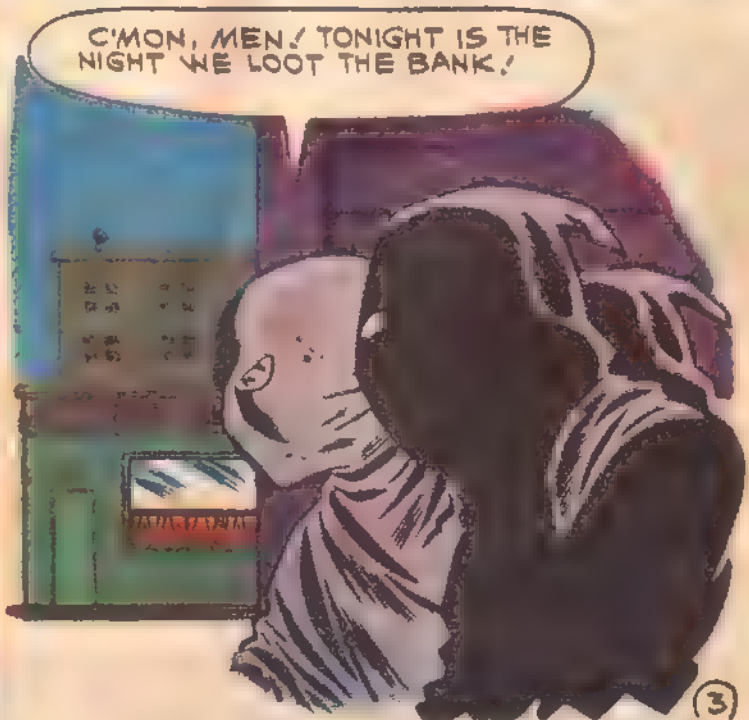
MASKED RAIDER


LANCE, HOW CAN YOU BE SO BRUTAL? LES WILL APOLOGIZE TO YOU, I'M SURE!
HE INSULTED ME, MISS POLLY, THEN REFUSED TO FIGHT! HE'S GOT TO LEAVE TOWN... THAT'S FINAL!
NEVER MIND ABOUT THAT COWARDLY LAWYER! I WANT TO TALK ABOUT YOU!
OH, VANCE, CAN'T YOU PUT A STOP TO THE TERROR AND VIOLENCE IN OUR TOWN?
VANCE HARDY WILL WRECK THIS TOWN BEFORE HE'S THROUGH! THE MASKED RAIDER WILL HAVE TO COME TO TOWN TONIGHT!

AT SUNDOWN, LES WILCOX HAD CHANGED... INTO THE OUTFIT FEARED BY EVERY OWL-HOOTER IN THE TERRITORY! WHITE STAR AND TALON WERE READY TOO...







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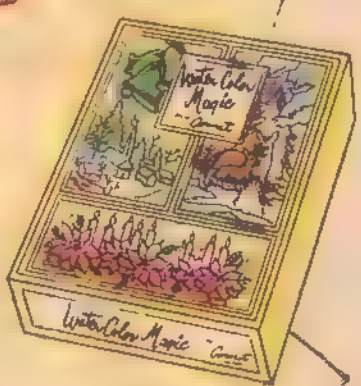

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MASKED RAIDER

THEY'RE HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE BANK!
LES WILCOX KNEW THE BANK LAY-OUT! IT WAS SIMPLE FOR HIM TO CLIMB IN A REAR WINDOW...
YOU ATTACK THEM WHEN THE SHOOTING STARTS, TALON! THEY'RE FORCING THE DOOR NOW!
THAT'S GOT IT! SOME OF YOU GUARD THE STREET WHILE WE SMASH THE VAULT! SHOOT ANYONE YOU SEE!
COME RIGHT IN, GENTS!
IT'S... IT'S THE MASKED RAIDER!
ATTACK, TALON!
THE PANICKED VIGILANTES FILLED THE BANK WITH VIOLENCE... FIRING AT A SHADOW, AT AN ENEMY THEY COULDN'T SEE, FIGHTING A PHANTOM EAGLE THAT RIPPED AND TORE...
I'M GETTING OUTA HERE!
POW! POW!

IN THE STREET, THE VIGILANTES WAITED FOR A TARGET TO RIDDLE... THEIR ENEMY DIDN'T GIVE THEM A CHANCE...
THEY'RE WAITING OUTSIDE! MAY AS WELL OBLIGE 'EM!
THE VIGILANTES ARE HERE! LIGHT UP THE STREET! GIVE US LIGHT OUT HERE!
BAM!
BAM!
BANG!
THE CITIZENS HEARD THE CRY... THEY COMPLIED... AND THE STREET WAS FLOODED WITH LIGHT...
THE... THE VIGILANTES TRIED TO ROB THE BANK! THE MASKED RAIDER STOPPED THEM!
HERE'S HARDY, MISS POLLY! NOW YOU CAN BE SURE HE AND HIS VIGILANTES ARE OUTLAWS!
I KNEW IT WHEN THEY ATTACKED LES WILCOX!
LES WILCOX MAY BE A COWARD BUT HE'S HONEST! INCIDENTALLY, MR. MASKED RAIDER, I LIKE LES WILCOX A LOT! I THINK HE'S CUTE!
WHY TELL IT TO ME, MISS POLLY? I'D LIKE TO STAY AND CHAT BUT I'D BETTER VAMOOSE! ADIOS!
END

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REMEMBER: No money is needed in advance. You take no risks. You can return all the mottoes you do not sell. You do not pay shipping costs or split your commission. You keep all the profit on each sale.

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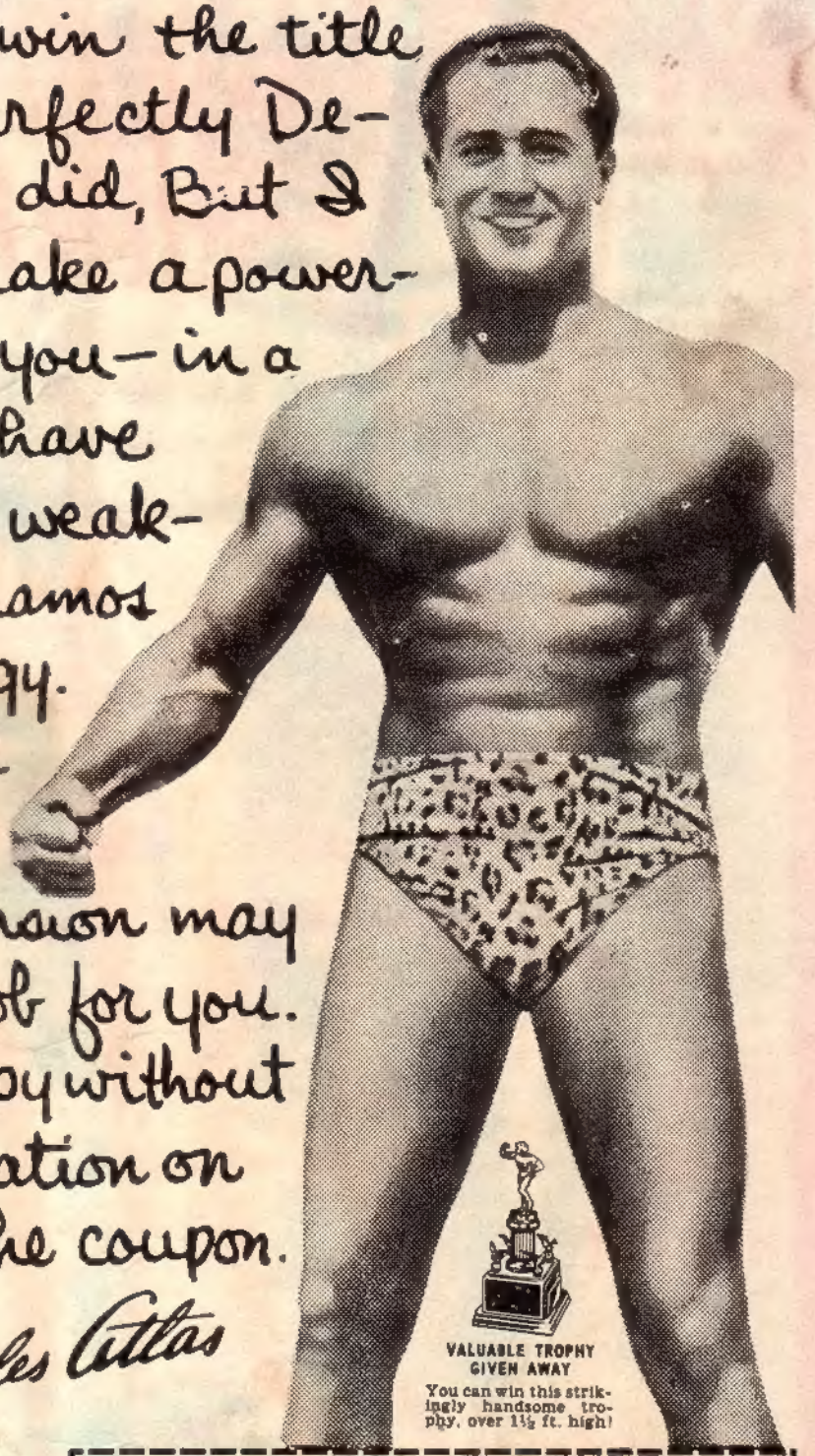
Charles Atlas



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- ☐ Better Sleep, More Energy

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